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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VIII.—NO. 10. WEEKLY EDITION. JANUARY 7, 1871.

MURDER WILL OUT.

SUPPOSED CAPTURE OF THE NATHAN ASSASSIN.

The Left-handed Blow and Deformed Hand Betray Him.

A Strange Story of an Amateur Detective.

George the Count Joannes, a well known character of New York City, writes to the *Sun* an interesting narrative, that, if confirmed, will confer deserved credit upon him, for bringing to justice the assassin of Benjamin Nathan, the tragic story of whose murder cannot be forgotten. The Count avers that at the grave of Mr. Nathan he vowed to devote his time, skill, diplomacy and hazard of personal danger to trace out the murderer and his accomplices; and not actuated by any earthly reward, but by the sacred obligation of a conscientious duty to Almighty God and my fellow-citizens!"

How gallantly he performed a secret vigilance committee, with the Count as chairman, but soon his associates retired, leaving him alone as to time, expenses and personal danger; and in this duty he cast aside preferred professional business.

Having finally got upon the track which has resulted in discovering the murderer, as he thinks, the Count pursued the investigation, with full co-operation from the authorities. He was given free and frequent access to two men in one of the city prisons, who were supposed to know something about the affair. One of them is now said to be the guilty man, and the other, who is virtually his accuser, was his "pal" for some time, but was a prisoner for twelve months from December 14, 1869, in the same institution where the alleged assassin has been, for several months, being so situated that they had several opportunities for conversation. The accuser is twenty-eight years old, a civil engineer by profession, and served for three years as detailed sergeant and messenger to Admiral Farragut on the Hartford. The statements by him as to his knowledge of the affair were made in an interview on October 1, 1870, the day after the Admiral's funeral, an event that seemed to influence him to his confession. The conversation, so far as it relates to the murder, is told as succinctly as possible in the following form, which is sworn and deposed to as correct by the principals:

Count Joannes—While in said military service, or since, did you or have you become acquainted, personally or otherwise, with ——?

Prisoner—I am acquainted with said ——; became acquainted with him in the month of August, 1869; introduced by ——, in city of New York, on the corner of Houston and Wooster streets; he is connected with the house of ——, [alluding, &c.] the party who did the murder and robbery.

Count Joannes—Do you know of any plot to rob the house of the late Mr. Nathan in the summer of 1869?

Prisoner—Yes! There was a "put up job" by ——, and ——, and myself, and the party who killed Mr. Nathan. [NOTE—This answer, and all others in the affirmative are in the handwriting of the owner.]

Count Joannes—In the above plot did the plotters know that there were iron safes in Mr. Nathan's house, and containing valuables? If yes, where were they situated, and in what rooms? Also, do you know what did you all believe they contained, and who first told you what they contained?

Prisoner—Yes! they knew exactly the position of said safes, the plan having been drawn by myself, with the assistance of ——.

Count Joannes—Had you any knowledge of any intention to murder the late Mr. Benjamin Nathan?

Prisoner—No, sir!

Count Joannes—When did you first hear or learn of the murder of the late Mr. Nathan? Was it from a newspaper?

Prisoner—From the New York *Sun*.

Count Joannes—Do you now positively know from information who actually killed the late Benjamin Nathan? Answer positively, and give the reasons, in the same solemnity—calling our God to witness to your truth—as if you were on your death-bed! Answer freely and positively.

Prisoner (instantly writing)—Yes! I know the party! [NOTE—Then pressed for a moment, and then in a firm handwriting, wrote the name and family alliance.

Count Joannes—Did that person confess to you that he killed the late Mr. Nathan? If yes, state the words, the their substance, how they commenced, and who spoke to you, and the date when he told you.

Prisoner—When I asked him relative to his doing the "job" in Twenty-third street, he changed color and told me to "shut up." August 3 or 4, 1870.

Count Joannes—Do you know what words he used when he confessed to you that he killed Mr. Nathan?

Prisoner—With the iron rung, or what the people call the dog.

[NOTE.—It is singular that when I subsequently asked the accused, and he was not told that he was accused, with what weapon he believed the murder was accomplished, he immediately answered, "with the iron," the same and unusual word used by his accuser, though by all other persons it is called the iron dog.]

Count Joannes—If you have any knowledge of the weapon generally now known as the iron dog," state how you learned it, and from whom, and in this particular.

Prisoner—This "iron dog" was picked up in Camp McDermit, Nevada, in May, 1869, while Jim and I were there. It was used for opening boxes of clothing, from which it was taken by Jim, and was brought on to New York as a memento of having traveled in Pirate Indian, kept by me in my trunk until I gave Jim an order to get it. Note—The following and all his answers were written instantly.

Count Joannes—Did you see in the murderer's possession any jewels, money, or any valuables that belonged to the late Mr. Nathan? If yes, state them?

Prisoner—I saw three large diamond studs and a gold watch and chain, when I saw him, August 3, 1870.

Count Joannes—Did the murderer give you any money?

Prisoner—He gave me five dollars.

Count Joannes—About how long a period before the 23d of August, 1870, did the murder—did the subsequent killer of Mr. Nathan call and see you?

Prisoner—About July 20, 21, or 22, 1870.

Count Joannes—Did he ask to borrow any articles, implements, or any thing connected with the crime? If yes, did you meet his wish, and state what articles you lent him, and where he said he intended to use them?

Prisoner—Yes; he asked me for jimmies, &c., and said he was going to "crack" that place in Twenty-third street. I told him to go to my room and get the jimmies, &c., and he took the "dog" and a revolver, &c.

Count Joannes—Was the implement now known as the iron "dog" among the articles you loaned to him?

Prisoner—Yes.

Count Joannes—Was the said iron "dog" ever longer than when you lent it to him? If yes, why was it shortened?

Prisoner—It was unhandy to carry in my pocket.

Count Joannes—Do you know, or did the murderer of Mr. Nathan ever state to you, that he killed or murdered Mr. Nathan? and other questions.

Prisoner—Yes; He murdered two Western gambling men in White Pine, Nevada.

Count Joannes—If there be any other matter or thing whatever that you know, or believe, relating to the murder or the robbery in question, state it fully in detail, as if I had propounded other special questions to you upon the subject matter.

Prisoner—I know that the murder was not premeditated; but as he was a desperate man, he took desperate chances, and killed in self-defence. He said this several times, and to Sing Sing he would kill the party.

Count Joannes—Give a personal description of the murderer for identity for his arrest, prior to absolute identity.

Prisoner—I can answer, but not at present. [NOTE.—I found the accused without address from the prisoner in a few minutes, though I was informed by him afterward, and conclusively.]

Count Joannes—Did the murderer tell you what he did with the blood-stained clothes in the house of murder? as it is but natural to suppose that, after the struggle, some blood of the victim would be found upon the clothes of the murderer. If yes, state what he said upon the subject.

Prisoner—He cut that out and—must, for they were my clothes I lent him!

Note.—To many other questions his replies are, "I cannot say;" and quite consistent with his imprisonment and absence from the scene of action.—J.

The Count says: "Since the above deposition I have had interviews with the prisoner; and at the latest one, when I produced to him the list of alleged murderer, and the deponent admitted its truth, he stated that the murder of Nathan was the burglary he was awakened, and their first knowledge of that fact was his saying, 'Jim, you've killed him!' to which words of his, for one of the burglars instantly struck him with his clenched fist between the eyes, Emanuel Abrahams, fell. The burglars then fled, and one fatally with the "iron rung" (the word again used), and both the accused and the accuser say that no other person was present."

THE INDIANS.

THE OKMULGEE COUNCIL.

Report of the Commissioners—The President's Policy—Advancement in Civilization.

Hon. Felix R. Brunot, Chairman of the Board of Indian Commissioners:

Your committee, consisting of Robert Campbell, John D. Lang and John V. Farwell, appointed to attend the Grand Council of the tribes in the Indian Territory, held under provisions of an act of Congress, beg leave to report that they met the said Council at Okmulgee after it had been in session several days. Delegates were in attendance from the following nations and tribes: Cherokees, Muskakees or Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Seminoles, Ottawas, Eastern Shawnees, Quappaws, Senecas, Wyandottes, Confederates, Peorias, Sacs and Foxes, Great and Little Osages, and absentee Shawnees.

We found that the committee on the permanent organization of the Territory into an Indian Government subject to the several treaties of the United States with the different tribes, had made a unanimous report in favor of the measure.

It was our pleasure to listen to the discussions upon the report, which were conducted with dignity and ability, after which the report was adopted by a vote of 48 to 5.

Your committee were impressed with the great importance of this council as bearing upon the execution of the humane policy of the Administration, uniting as it does, the several civilized tribes to co-operate as a unit with the Government, to effect the permanent settlement of the wild tribes, as well as for their own mutual advancement, and knowing the tenacity with which the Indians hold to their tribal relations and treaty stipulations, they were fearful that the objects of the Council might not be attained without special effort on their part and by the Superintendent and other true friends of the Indians. Your Committee, therefore, cannot but express their belief that the hand of Providence has opened the eyes of these tribes to see this opportunity, just at the time when the Government and the public sentiment of the country are especially interested in their behalf, and that the meeting of this Council is not the beginning of an epoch in the history of the Red Man.

After the adoption of the report alluded to, an able committee of twelve was appointed to draft a constitution to conform to the treaties under which this Council was called, the members of which are very much in earnest in the matter.

In our visits to the various tribes of Indians the present season, we are happy to say that we have witnessed much to encourage us in the belief that the present policy of the President and Congress in behalf of the Indians of the United States is showing evidence of success. It inspires courage in the friends of the Indian to know we trust will give still greater encouragement as time goes on, and the continued fostering care of Congress and the faithful performance of the duties devolving upon its agents.

We were gratified and deeply interested in a visit to the Legislature of the Cherokee Nation, convened at Tahlequah, consisting of the Senate and House, with a Governor or Chief and Council. We were kindly received in a joint session of both Houses, and witnessed a display of talents, ability, dignity and decorum in the management of business becoming any legislative body of white men. At Okmulgee we attended the sittings of the General Council, and were equally impressed with the dignity and ability manifested by the members in attendance from the various tribes. Your committee, by their joint action, witnessed fresh evidences of the improving condition and advancement towards a general civilization of the Indian race under the new peace policy of Congress.

On the various important subjects claiming the attention of the council, grave deliberation, good order, cordial expressions of sentiment, and with a high tone of intelligence, prevailed.

The general interest manifested for the education of their children is very encouraging. Although they have numerous schools in operation, still we learned they were unable to meet the demands in number, and heeded more in order to extend to all equal advantages in this respect.

The country of the Indians is of superior quality, with an abundant supply of timber and excellent water, and is capable of sustaining a large number of the Indians now in the United States. Comparatively a small portion of the land is under cultivation at present improved, and there is a great deficiency in the roads, and a lack of facilities for reaching markets, and a neglect of stock-raising and agriculture.

Your committee are particularly pleased with the assurances made by the civilized tribes for the purpose of inducing the wild tribes to come under the care of the civilized tribes, through the instrumentality of the latter, in connection with white people, looks already very encouraging, and your committee believe that the present favorable condition will be directed to this object. Suggestions and details which may be desired with a view to legislation can be best obtained from the reports themselves.

I also refrain from making any recommendations. Believing that too frequent changes of the laws and too much legislation are serious evils, I respectfully suggest that upon many subjects it may be well to defer legislation until the people have acted upon the question of calling a Constitutional Convention. If such a convention shall be called, it is not improbable that the General Assembly will be clothed with powers essentially different from those conferred by the present fundamental law in relation to the judiciary, railroads, temperance, and many other important subjects, and that the Legislature itself will be so constituted as to secure to minorities a fairer representation than they now enjoy.

FINANCES.

The balance in the State Treasury on the 15th of November, 1869, was $438,060 14; the receipts during the year were $4,399,902 85; making the total amount of available funds in the Treasury during the year $4,837,962 67.

The disbursements during the year have been $4,671,954 57; leaving a balance in the Treasury November 15, 1870, of 166,008 10.

The estimate of the Auditor of State for the current year are as follows:

Estimated receipts from all sources, including balances, $5,680,205 10; estimated disbursements for all purposes, $5,146,376 01; leaving an estimated balance in the Treasury November 15, 1871, of $506,229 09.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The public funded debt of the State on the 15th of November, 1869, after deducting the amount invested in loans not yet due, was $9,856,938 27. During the last year there has been redeemed of the various loans, and invested in loans not yet due, the sum of $1,282,980 30; leaving the total debt due November 15, 1870, $9,732,677 97.

The Fund Commissioners were prepared to pay off a larger amount of the debt than has been actually discharged during the year, but none of the bonds of the State were due, and some of the holders demanded for the same per cent. premium, and others refused to surrender their bonds at any price.

TAXATION.

The constant and rapid increase of taxation demands consideration. The following table, showing the taxation for different purposes in 1860 and in 1870, and the increase in the taxation in ten years, sufficiently exhibits the nature and extent of the evil:

AMOUNT OF TAXES LEVIED.			
For what purpose	1860.	1870.	Increase.
County taxes	$1,200,137 46	$1,973,088 71	$ 665,951 25
Bridge taxes	327,438 46	1,474,144 19	1,036,705 73
Poor taxes	260,607 20	567,716 42	307,109 22
Building taxes	228,444 13	733,960 73	505,516 60
Road taxes	384,424 77	1,190,202 77	805,778 00
Railroad taxes	1,026,082 86	461,848 72	*564,234 14
Township taxes	1,467,444 44	4,960,271 87	3,492,827 43
Township and borough school taxes	1,467,444 44	4,960,271 87	3,492,827 43
City school taxes	267,297 00	1,133,335 00	866,038 00
City & town taxes	1,506,093 86	3,447,766 90	1,941,673 04
Delinquent taxes	43,013 46	667,248 60	214,234 74
Other than State taxes	7,313,963 41	19,464,578 26	12,227,675 05
State taxes	2,596,500 00	3,201,500 00	605,000 00
Totals	$10,817,676 34	$24,130,320 51	$13,300,164 30

*Decrease.

This table shows that in ten years the State taxes have increased thirty-three per cent., and that local taxes have increased almost one hundred and seventy per cent. The increase in the State taxes is seventy-five per cent. in the same time.

The increase of local taxation has been far greater than the growth of the State in business, population, or wealth, and is capable of sustaining a burden of the Indians now in the United States. Comparatively a small portion of the land is under cultivation at present improved, and there is a great deficiency in the roads, and a lack of facilities for reaching markets, and a neglect of stock-raising and agriculture.

Your committee are particularly pleased with the assurances made by the civilized tribes for the purpose of inducing the wild tribes to come under the care of the civilized tribes, through the instrumentality of the latter, in connection with white people, looks already very encouraging, and your committee believe that the present favorable condition will be directed to this object. Suggestions and details which may be desired with a view to legislation can be best obtained from the reports themselves.

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OHIO.

Annual Message of Governor Hayes, of Ohio, to the Fifty-ninth General Assembly, at the Adjourned Session, Commencing January 3, 1871.

Fellow Citizens of the General Assembly:

The official reports, which the law require to be annually made to the Governor, show that the affairs of the various departments of the State government and of the State institutions have been conducted during the past year in a satisfactory manner. I shall not attempt to give a synopsis of the facts and figures which the reports contain. The most important parts of them have been spread before the people of the State by the newspaper press, and the details which may be desired with a view to legislation can be best obtained from the reports themselves.

I also refrain from making any recommendations. Believing that too frequent changes of the laws and too much legislation are serious evils, I respectfully suggest that upon many subjects it may be well to defer legislation until the people have acted upon the question of calling a Constitutional Convention. If such a convention shall be called, it is not improbable that the General Assembly will be clothed with powers essentially different from those conferred by the present fundamental law in relation to the judiciary, railroads, temperance, and many other important subjects, and that the Legislature itself will be so constituted as to secure to minorities a fairer representation than they now enjoy.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

It is necessary that the General Assembly, at its present session, should adopt the requisite legislation to carry into effect the following requirement of the constitution: Section 4, article 16, of the constitution provides that "at the regular session to be held in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and in each twentieth year thereafter, the question, 'Shall there be a convention to revise, alter or amend the constitution?' shall be submitted to the electors of the State, and in case a majority of all the electors voting at such election shall decide in favor of such a convention, the General Assembly at its next session, shall provide by law for the election of delegates and the assembling of such convention."

In conclusion I feel warranted in congratulating you on the favorable judgment of your constituents upon your action on the important subjects which were considered at your last session, and in expressing a confident hope that what remains to be done will, under Providence, be so wisely ordered that the true interests of all of the people of the State will be greatly and permanently advanced.

January 3, 1871. R. B. HAYES.

PHILADELPHIA.

The January Sitting of the Supreme Court.

Decisions in a Large Number of Important Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania Cases.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PHILADELPHIA, January 3, 1871.

The January sitting of the Supreme Court *in banc*, began yesterday in Philadelphia, all the Judges, Sharswood, Williams, Agnew, and Read, being present. Chief Justice Thompson is presiding. The following important opinions were announced; the judgment in each case being pronounced by Thompson, C. J.

Lane *vs.* Lane, *et al*, Westmoreland county, affirmed.

Milliken *vs.* Dravo, Allegheny county, reversed.

McGinnes *vs.* Vernon, Fayette county, reversed.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad Company *et al vs.* Rowan and wife, Allegheny county, reversed.

E. M. Bigelow, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Boland and Snyder *vs.* A. Amsen, Crawford county, reversed.

Massee *vs.* Gardner, Clarion county, affirmed.

Dodd, for use, etc., *vs.* Kelly, Crawford county, affirmed.

Burgwin *vs.* Colvin *et al.*, Cambria county, affirmed.

Slocum's appeal, Fayette county, decree reversed.

Attiman's appeal, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Garrod *vs.* Hadden, Fayette county, affirmed.

Colter *vs.* Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad Company, Allegheny county, affirmed—by Read, J.

Hatch *vs.* Still, Armstrong county, affirmed.

Phelps *vs.* Moss, Greene county, judgment reversed, *venire de novo* awarded.

Holman *vs.* Stanley, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Brown *et al. vs.* Davenport, Erie county, reversed—Justice Agnew dissenting—by Williams, J.

Harper *et al. vs.* Hays, Allegheny county, reversed—Judgment for plaintiff in case stated.

Fargo *et al. vs.* Brown *et al.*, Venango county, reversed.

Hoevler *vs.* Micgel *et al.*, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Ewing *et al. vs.* Thompson's administrators, Allegheny county, reversed.

The county of Armstrong *vs.* the county of Clarion, Clarion county, reversed.

Kerr *et al. vs.* Verner, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Tradesmen's National Bank *vs.* the Third National Bank, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Commel *et al, vs.* Kerr *et al.*, Cambria county, affirmed.

Shreve *et al. vs.* the city of Pittsburgh, affirmed.

Niel *vs.* Colwell, Jefferson county, affirmed—by Agnew, J.

R. Henry Brown *vs.* James Hays, Jefferson county, affirmed.

R. C. Barker *et al vs.* John C. McCreary, Erie county, reversed—judgment given for plaintiff for full costs.

Charles Allemus's executor *vs.* William McKenna *et al*, Greene county, reversed.

Gazzam *vs.* Armstrong, David Crafford, Greene county, affirmed.

Joseph Ross *vs.* William Espy, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Thomas Zerkenbach *vs.* Leopold Seichrist, Erie county, affirmed—by Agnew, J.

Henry and McManus *vs.* Robert Cassiday, Armstrong county, reversed.

Rodgers, Hoffman & Co. *vs.* William D. Williams, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Alexander Herring *vs.* Margaret McClurg, Allegheny county, decree affirmed, excepting as to all money allowed to plaintiff, which is reduced to the sum of $1,000.

H. Newall *vs.* F. Haworth, Venango county, affirmed.

Mary I. Jones *vs.* Jerome Jones, Allegheny county, decree affirmed.

Robert Robertson *vs.* the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway Company, Allegheny county. Same *vs.* Same, *on exceptions of sicetment*. Judgment reversed, with costs of paper book, and the petition, the order granting the same is reversed, the petition refused and the rule discharged—by Read, J.

P. M. Cunningham *vs.* David Mitchell, Fayette county, reversed.

Leech, Gardner, Edward Miller & Co., Allegheny county, reversed.

A. S. Ribines, administrator, *vs.* J. B. Evans, Jefferson county, affirmed.

Peter McCullough *vs.* The Commonwealth, Washington county, reversed.

Commonwealth *vs.* William H. Keenan and James H. Clarke, Allegheny county, order reversed and indictment quashed.

In re J. Charles Dickens, Allegheny county, the order affirmed upon the third specification, by Sharswood, J.

Pennsylvania Railroad Company *vs.* Riblet, Erie county, affirmed.

Beeden *vs.* Gilliland, Lawrence county, reversed.

Rotlands' appeal, Allegheny county, reversed—Sharswood, J., dissenting.

Cree's appeal, Allegheny county, reversed.

Kincaid *vs.* Boyd, Allegheny county, decree reversed.

Dyers *vs.* Wightman, Allegheny county, affirmed.

In re, appeal of Pine township, Jefferson township, Allegheny county, projection.

The Aricson Oil Company *vs.* the North American Oil and Refining Company, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Riddell's appeal, Allegheny county, appeal quashed.

The Youghiogheny Iron and Coal Company *vs.* Smith, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Bart *vs.* Herron's Express, Allegheny county, reversed.

Lee *vs.* P. Barker, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Armor *vs.* Cochran, Westmoreland county, affirmed.

Klumph *vs.* Dunn, Crawford county, affirmed.

Boyd *vs.* Beck, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Trefts *vs.* The Borough of Johnstown, Cambria county, affirmed.

Fetz *vs.* Laird, Cambria county, affirmed.

Russell *vs.* Kennedy, Erie county, affirmed.

Evans *vs.* County of Venango, affirmed.

Fehly *vs.* Hall, Jefferson county, judgment affirmed.

Thurston *vs.* Brainard, Crawford county, reversed by Williams, J.

Chase *vs.* The Petroleum Bank to use, &c., Crawford county, reversed.

Snyder and wife *vs.* Beehne, Clarion county, reversed.

Baird *vs.* Porter, Fayette county, affirmed.

Thompson *et al, vs.* Rogers, Washington county, reversed.

Hastings *vs.* McGee, Allegheny county, reversed.

Jones *vs.* Hess, Fayette county, affirmed.

School District of the borough of Connellsville *vs.* Smith's Executors, Fayette county, affirmed.

The Lucesco Oil Company *vs.* Brewar, Burke & Co., Allegheny county, affirmed.

Harris, Willie & Co. *vs.* the City of Allegheny, affirmed.

Gilmore *vs.* Hunt's Administrators, reversed.

Davis and wife *vs.* Zimmerman, Greene county, affirmed.

Power and Ward *vs.* O'Neill, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Graham's executors *vs.* Graham, Allegheny county, affirmed.

Lewis's appeal, Indiana county, decree affirmed.

Campbell *et al. vs.* Stephens for use, etc., Armstrong county, affirmed.

McCabe *vs.* Burns and Stevenson, Allegheny county, reversed.

Rowley and wife *vs.* McHugh, Cambria county, reversed.

The county of Jefferson *vs.* William and Daniel Slagle, affirmed.

Hall's appeal, Allegheny county, decree affirmed.

Randolph *vs.* Randolph, Crawford county, decree reversed.

Alcorn *vs.* the Commonwealth, Venango county, judgement affirmed.

THE COMMERCIAL.

[From the Salem (O.) Republican.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL, one of the leading, and decidedly the best commercial sheet printed in this part of the country, comes out in an entire new set of type, and looks elegant in its new dress. It is the paper sought after in this locality, and over assertions and declarations relative to home or foreign events are made on the authority of the COMMERCIAL. In politics, *right*, even in the face of protection to American labor and industry. Its circulation is increasing in this part of Ohio, and well it should. We wish it much success.

[From the Canton (O.) Repository and Republican.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL now comes to us in a bran new suit of type, and presents a finer appearance than ever. Every week adds to the laurels of Major Dellmore's crown, and in each succeeding year he will honor high patronage, and now, on the 5th of January, the American Club ball is announced under auspices which place boxes at the Academy of Music at $100 premium. The numerous COMMERCIAL exposés altogether of city politicians, to whom "money is no object," and who as a rule dress their wives gorgeously, The ball, the Opera, and the Academy of Music, with silk, satin and diamonds, and odorous with floral grottoes, from which to gather bouquets to send forth the richest perfumes. In addition to the Academy of Music, Irving Hall has been engaged, and will serve as a supper room, a cover of which will be beautifully decorated and lined with choice plants and flowers, bridging the distance between the two buildings.

[From the Philadelphia Shipping List.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL is quite up to the times, having bought itself a handsome new dress, in which it appeared on Monday last. The COMMERCIAL is a good newspaper, edited with vigor, and deserves its success. We congratulate it on these and other evidences of material prosperity. *Adjutant-General.*

[From the Beaver Argus.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL strayed itself in a new typographical suit on Monday morning. It presents a neat and "newsy" appearance.

[From the Kittanning Free Press.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL has donned a new dress, and looks as bright as a silver dollar. The COMMERCIAL is a first-class daily, and we are pleased to note this evidence of success and prosperity.

[From the New Lisbon (O.) Journal.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL strayed itself in a new typographical suit on Monday morning last. It presents a fine appearance.

FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

New Years Calls—Reception Toilettes—Costumes de Visite—Balls and Ball Dresses—Silks at Panic Prices, etc., etc.

(From Our Fashion Correspondent.)

All the currents which set towards the new year centre at present in one direction—New Year's calls. This time-honored observance so dear to the hearts of all Knickerbockers, has of late years assumed greater importance and been more strictly and religiously kept than ever. The tables to be sure do not exhibit the abounding and generous hospitality which distinguished them twenty years ago, when they groaned under huge turkeys and great boiled hams, but they have got over the meagreness which restricted them to cake and wine, and display a luxury in accordance with the growth of wealth and the love of creature comforts, which distinguishes this age and this nation.

There is something really human in this custom which keeps it alive and makes it grow. First of January calls are not now by any means confined to New York and in fact the custom is becoming so general that it threatens to be a national in time as Thanksgiving Day.

THE RECEPTION.

It is understood, of course, that gentlemen only make these calls and only ladies receive them, unless in the case of public officials or State dignitaries. Weeks before the preparations commence by the purchase of a new dress, which must be completed by the given time or woe to the unlucky dress-maker! For a New York woman has a superstition about wearing a new dress on New Year's day, and considers her happiness in a great measure dependent upon it. As the time approaches ecstacy multiply. The whole house must undergo renovation—lace curtains must be cleaned, silver must be scoured, table linen put in order, various kinds of rich cake made, stores of wine and fruit and confectioneries purchased, and every preliminary step taken to insure the success of the final event.

The table, generally placed in the back parlor or extension room, is set the night before, the fruit and confectionery all arranged, so that nothing remains to be done but cut the sandwiches, arrange the cake, small and large, in baskets and china dishes, make the coffee and—dress. This accomplished, the lady of the house, her daughters or friends betake themselves to the parlors or withdrawing rooms, and the business of the day commences. Old friends of the family sometimes make long calls, and even join the family dinner of roast turkey and oyster sauce at six o'clock; but young men who pride themselves upon the number of calls they shall make, as young ladies, upon the number they shall receive, fly in and out with doubtful rapidity and bestow their compliments of the season, swallowing a glass of wine and bolting—as if the latter with his unpaid bill was the first creditor—certainly with more celerity than politeness. The last calls are not unfrequently made late at night, and in families where there are many young people the evening closes with a dance or sort of improvised sociable.

To make your New Year's calls would seem to cost more than they are worth. But when we come to consider how little there is to wear, and how only real value we shall feel that social amenities and the fraternal spirit are worth cultivating under any circumstances which we may be placed in, we are well to accept and make the best of what we have until the natural growth of things gives us something better.

NEW YEAR'S TOILETTES.

Among the ladies of wealth and families the toilettes for New Year's day possess a certain significance or character. Among them the custom is preserved of waiting upon their guests upon that day with their own hands, not delegating the trust to servants as some of the fashionables do. Hence their toilettes are therefore adapted to a certain extent to this homelike and housewifely custom. The magnificence of lace flounces, very long trains, and even a superabundance of jewelry, which is all considered bad style, but color and material are left entirely to means restricted. On the contrary, there is more latitude allowed than upon any other occasion. So that the high neck and the demi-train give the "dressy" evening costume a character to the toilette that may be in accordance with the sweet will of the wearer provided always that it is becoming.

Overdresses of organdie open robes of pink, blue mauve or white over skirts of the same shade in the factory solution to many problems in regard to New Year's day reception. The above is a most graceful and tasteful when ornamented with rather broad black velvet carried in trails to the shoulders as the latest fancy dictates.

Other and very elegant costumes are of striped satin and moire antique, the stripes of satin trimmed with lace and rich fringe. The bodies of these striped dresses are cut square, the sleeves full of the lace to the waist, and over the arm are pretty puffs of the satin, lined with white silk or satin which come together at the top of the arm, but disclose nearly the whole of the striped sleeve underneath. The skirts of these dresses always the color of the satin stripe in the underdress.

Very pretty dresses, and they are so fashionable that they may serve for the opera, are of white or buff taffetas and dotted Swiss or organdie muslin. A deep flounce of the material, headed by a fringe, forms the skirt, and is headed by three narrow alternating flounces, two of silk and one of muslin, the silk ones gathered, the muslin one merely set on plain. A narrow valenciennes and completed by alternate ruffles of silk and muslin, to match the skirt. Pagoda sleeves ruffled to match.

Rich plain *peau de soie* forms the elegant toilettes of many fashionably dressed young ladies. The myrtle green, sand color and prune which are the favorite tints, but which are growing so exceedingly plain as it is could at New Years find room for.

VISITS.

The first days after "New Year's" are the ladies special calling days, and to these visits is attached a great deal of importance in the way of display and dress. The most elegant costumes prepared for the purpose this season are composed of velvet and fur, ruby, claret, golden brown, dark green and marine blue velvets, mounted with narrow bands of chinchilla, fitch, sable, ermine, or any fur which suits or nets are of the same velvet as the dress with flounces to match.

These costumes are less fashionable than last year, but probably there are none more truly elegant. A plain skirt, untrimmed, but with a deep flounce around the bottom, and several narrow flounces above, alternating with bands of fur. The basque is also plain, but closed with deep black thread lace, above which are ruffles of lace, half the width, and sleeves of close doll silk embroidery. The *Directoire* bonnet worn with this costume is of black velvet trimmed with a scarf of the same, and a plume of black ostrich plumes. The velvet strings are cut on the bias lined with white silk and ruffled across the ends with narrow black lace.

Less expensive costumes for young ladies are of delaine, in the checked and striped styles, and are trimmed with narrow bands and revers of Astrachan, and Astrachan muff and boa complete the suit.

WHAT IS FASHIONABLE.

One of the best indications of a woman of wealth and real refinement is her ability to adapt herself to all things to all the necessities of position and circumstance, and does it. She never wears a white bonnet, obtrusive jewelry, a long dress or this shoes in the street, nor a bonnet or shoes and dress for walking dress in the evening, when ceremonious toilettes are expected. She knows what is suitable, and she acts upon it from instinct or from convenience.

Nothing is more common than for ladies in the country to come to the city to shop, and if a long or short dresses are worn, if suits or cloaks are fashionable—which is to be the fashionable color or fabric, and, above all, if any of them were not, the example and discovery of novel and pretty things are lost. Hence the fashionable and well dressed women by no means limit themselves to one special out or one dress, but by a careful attention to detail arrange so that they can afford enough of changes to adapt their costume to every condition and circumstance of life, and are therefore never incongruous, inconvenient or unsuitable, unless they are deficient in taste and judgment.

The fashion of the day whose carriage and visiting costumes trail half a yard upon the ground selects a plain, neat walking dress, which is worn in the street, a promenade in the street, and it the plain short dress which the wife of the poor man, or the young girl of limited means, is obliged to wear, and which is seldom trail and expensive trimming of lace

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1871.

GOV. GEARY'S MESSAGE.

The message of Governor GEARY, herewith printed, is a voluminous and interesting document. At the outset we have a highly satisfactory statement of the State's finances. Since January, 1867, the public debt has been reduced $6,592,747 87, or at the rate of $1,648,187 a year. During the year ending November 30, 1870, the reduction was $1,702,879 05. The present State indebtedness of every description is $31,111,661 90. To meet obligations falling due, the Governor recommends that the Legislature authorize the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to sell "all the assets that may be in their possession," amounting to $9,500,000. This applied to its liquidation, the debt would be $21,500,000, to liquidate the whole, which at the present rate would require only eight years. The Governor wisely suggests that this rate may be considered too rapid as well as unnecessary, if not oppressive; that taxation to such an extent, which is mainly borne by our corporations and the manufacturing industries, may have an injurious effect, and the opinion is expressed that it can be safely eased off, so as to reduce the debt at the rate of $1,000,000 a year.

Governor GEARY warmly recommends the calling of a State Convention to revise the Constitution, and advances many cogent arguments in its support, the Legislature, moved by an unmistakable popular sentiment, having already taken steps in the same direction. It is reasonable to conclude that this great work of reform—which the COMMERCIAL was first to propose—will be accomplished at the earliest day practicable.

Perhaps the next most important recommendation in the message is that a Geological and Mineralogical Survey of the State be made with as little delay as possible, a recommendation to which we hope the Legislature will promptly respond with necessary authorization. The reasons for this work advanced by Governor GEARY are all excellent and timely.

A considerable portion of the message is taken up in discussing "National affairs." The Governor has some sturdy words to utter in favor of Protection, and with great good sense and force says: "The duty on tea, coffee and tropical productions, and all inquisitorial and other taxation under the revenue laws, except upon luxuries, whisky and other liquors, and tobacco, should be repealed."

The observations of the message on the treatment of States that entered into the rebellion, are calm, well digested, and will, we believe, receive a favorable response from the people of this Commonwealth. No doubting that here and there are "some disappointed spirits," yet too few a number, too insignificant in power "to give serious cause for uneasiness or alarm"—towards whom the policy of conciliation is recommended—Governor GEARY trusts that the time is "close at hand, when this grand and perfect consummation will be effected by UNIVERSAL AMNESTY. "It would," he adds, in language at once forcible and eloquent, "efface the lingering distractions which are fostered by punishment of the very few for crimes in which very many participated and remove the last pretext for hostility against a government whose magnanimity is the crowning glory of its power. It will accord with enlightened and progressive civilization and harmonize with the tested might and grandeur of her institutions. It will present, too, the noblest government of the world's history, as impregnable and indissoluble, because founded without distinction, class, birth, or circumstance, upon the virtue and intelligence of all its people." These are golden words, and we thank Governor GEARY for having uttered them. Coming from an eminent soldier in the war, we have reason to believe his brother soldiers of our State, as a class, will give to them an approving response; and they are entitled to have weight at Washington. And not less worthy of attention is what follows on the employment of troops at elections, without the consent of the local State government."

The Message contains many things to which we have made no allusion, all of which are treated in a clear and comprehensive manner. And we close the attention of those who take an interest in public affairs.

AS POSITION on the calendar will be of some importance in getting through legislation, it is to be hoped that the Hon. D. N. WHITE will report his Allegheny County Reform Bill at the earliest day practicable. The entire delegation having committed themselves in a dozen different ways to the measure, there should be no doubt about its passage; and yet nothing is more common than the knowing dodge, which those "inside politics" express on the subject, while others openly ridicule the idea of redeeming the pledges whereby the Hon. Legislature was elected. We shall see whether the pledges were made to cheat the people or to be honorably fulfilled.

THE agitation to make Decoration Day a legal holiday by Congressional enactment has been resumed, and we hope will succeed. The reason alleged by Congress for refusing to adopt the measure before was that an increase of a day's holiday would be detrimental to the business interests of the country. How much detriment would it be to the business of the country to have six holidays instead of five in every 365 days?

REPORTS from the different parts of the country agree that there was one comparatively sober New Year's. Even in New York and Brooklyn the operations of press and pulpit against too frequent libations have been so far efficacious that though many called few were unfit to be chosen for the parlor or the best regulated family." Suppose that the generation who were temporarily assailed by peculiar temptations, and the ladies who set an example of good for once, should continue their efforts through 1871. Monday showed that the ladies have a power to keep men sober; what terms will they set them to exercise it all the time as well as on one day.

A NEW YORK *Herald* correspondent at Washington furnishes, in the columns of "dining-up" for Tuesday's paper, some speculations regarding the Presidential race. First, he asserts that Mr. Colfax's public withdrawal from further office-seeking is but a "Seymour" game—a part of a deeply laid plot to put him on the notch higher. Next, he is to be in the hands of his friends," who are said to be the national banks and the iron manufacturers. Mr. Blaine is also alleged to be using his power as Speaker of the House to advance his own Presidential aspirations, by securing the votes of various leading interests by manipulating the committees in their behalf. To all of which we say: Wait and see, but don't believe it. It's but a Bohemian's gossip, who has to fill so much space at a regular price of column.

MESSAGE
OF
GOVERNOR GEARY,
TO THE
General Assembly of Pennsylvania, January 4, 1870.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN: An All-wise Providence has permitted you to assemble under circumstances demanding profound gratitude to the Great Lawgiver of the Universe. Our acknowledgments are first due to Him whose hand has not grown weary in showering blessings in profusion upon the people in every department of industry, and crowning their toil with richest rewards.

The circumstances under which you commence the duties of the present session are, indeed, auspicious; and at no former period in our history has there been greater cause for felicitation upon the inestimable blessings we enjoy, and the happy and prosperous condition of our great and growing Commonwealth.

The meeting of the General Assembly is always a matter of deep interest to the people, and perhaps never more so than now, when an unusual amount of necessary general legislation will occupy your attention, and questions of the highest importance are to be discussed and determined upon. I sincerely trust your industry cause for felicitation upon the performance of the important work before you, will win you the proud title of "the working Legislature."

Amid such circumstances our attention should be directed to a careful review of all the important and essential interests of the State; and in the exercise of that discretion which the Constitution has confided to the Executive, I proceed to communicate such information, and to recommend to your consideration such measures as are deemed necessary and expedient.

As first in order and importance, I will present a carefully prepared and precise statement of the financial condition of the Commonwealth.

FINANCES.

It affords me pleasure to congratulate the people upon the satisfactory condition of the Treasury. Every claim against the State has been paid or other expenses has been promptly paid, and the public debt is rapidly decreasing, thus affording just ground for confidence in the securities of the Commonwealth as to cause them to command the highest premiums in the money operations of this country. You will be presented to you more fully and in detail in the reports of the Auditor General, State Treasurer, and Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. The following statement exhibits the receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1870:

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury, November 30, 1869	$1,409,562 49
Ordinary receipts during the fiscal year	6,336,603 34
Total in Treasury during the year ending November 30, 1870	$7,737,465 73

DISBURSEMENTS.

Ordinary expenses paid during the year ending November 30, 1870	$2,966,822 09
Loans paid	1,702,879 09
Interest on loans	1,864,811 17
	6,434,522 91
Balance in Treasury, November 30, 1870	$1,302,942 82

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt due on November 30, 1869, was	$32,814,540 95
Deduct amount redeemed by Sinking Fund Commissioners during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1870	$1,602,321 31
Amount redeemed by Treasurer during the the same time	100,337 74
	1,702,879 05
Total public debt, November 30, 1870	$31,111,661 90

The following statement shows the nature of the indebtedness of the Commonwealth November 30, 1870:

Funded debt, viz:	
Amount of over due loans	$ 707,050 33
Amount payable in 1871, interest 6 per cent	2,709,950 00
Amount payable in 1872, interest 6 per cent	4,781,350 00
Amount payable in 1872, interest 5 per cent	92,950 00
Amount payable in 1877, interest 6 per cent	7,890,950 00
Amount payable in 1877, interest 5 per cent	3,577,700 00
Amount payable in 1878, interest 5 per cent	205,000 00
Amount payable in 1879, interest 6 per cent	400,000 00
Amount payable in 1882, interest 6 per cent	1,753,950 00
Amount payable in 1882, interest 4½ per cent	112,000 00
Amount payable in 1882, interest 6 per cent	9,273,000 00
	$30,997,700 33
Unfunded debt, viz:	
Relief notes in circulation	$96,382 00
Interest certificates outstanding	13,086 52
Interest certificates unclaimed	4,448 38
Domestic creditors' certificates	44 67
	113,961 57
Total public debt, November 30, 1870, as above stated	$31,111,661 90

REDUCTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

On the 15th day of January, 1867, the total indebtedness of the State was thirty-seven millions two hundred and four thousand six hundred and nine dollars and seventy-seven cents. Since then, up to November 30, 1870, the sum of six millions five hundred and ninety-two thousand seven hundred and forty-seven dollars and forty-seven cents has been paid. The reduction during the year ending November 30, 1870, is one million seven hundred and two thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine dollars and five cents.

The average reduction per annum, for the last four years, is one million six hundred and forty-eight thousand one hundred and eighty-seven dollars.

In view of the fact that prior to the first of July, 1872, nearly eight million dollars of the public debt will be due, and in order that the Commonwealth may continue to meet all its obligations promptly at maturity, I recommend that such provision be made by the Legislature, at its present session, as will enable the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to sell all the assets that may be in their possession, and apply the proceeds to the extinguishment of the public debt; or, at the option of the holders, to exchange them for the outstanding bonds of the Commonwealth.

The indebtedness of the State might be paid in the following manner: As already shown, it was, on November 30, 1870, thirty-one millions dollars, from which amount, if the assets, $9,500,000, be deducted there would remain unpaid $21,500,000. If the whole, estimated at par, were applied to expenditures to continue as at present, the entire liabilities of the State could be liquidated in March or April, 1878.

If this mode of paying the State debt should be regarded as unnecessarily rapid and oppressive, then a reduction of one million dollars per annum, I would, perhaps, be more satisfactory to them and to the people. Such a rate of payment I do not hesitate, in an endeavor to force things under the present mode of taxation, there is great danger of driving capital away from our borders. Everywhere we hear complaints have been exempted from taxes on his land or State agencies, and in this matter the burden rests upon the active, energetic and enterprising portions of the community, who have always had their full share to bear in the formation, and maintenance of the State, whilst the business man, merchant and manufacturer are the natural agents of the community, upon which the farmer himself must, in a great measure, depend for a realization of his industry. A more certain mode of relieving the burdens of other pursuits, manufacturing, railroad and mining pursuits should be adopted. Unless these interests are fostered and kept in full operation, the farming community will also suffer. They are the very life-blood of the State, and should be guarded with the utmost care, rather by overburdening them with taxation for the immediate payment of the entire State indebtedness.

Fourth—Special legislation is the great and impure fountain of corruption, private speculations and public wrongs. It has become a by-word of the republican government, and is one of the most alarming evils of the times. Judicious amendments to the Constitution would arrest and destroy the growing evil; and it is the duty of every patriotic citizen to co-operate in all lawful measures to effect so desirable a consummation. In the enactment of such a radical change is demanded. Every bill presented, for adoption should be read at least on three days, and the yeas and nays be recorded on its final passage.

Fifth—It is important that the State Constitution should be made to conform to the Constitution of the United States as far as practicable.

Sixth—The subject of minority representation is now much agitated, and is receiving a large share of consideration among thoughtful and considerate men. It embraces problems of great political importance, and its manifest justice commends it to public favor. While some of the objects it proposes might be obtained by legislative enactments, the general principle underlying it should be embodied in the fundamental law.

Seventh—The members of the General Assembly should be increased in number.

Eighth—There should be a fundamental limitation to the powers of corporations.

Ninth—There is absolute necessity for greater security for the public funds and their proper distribution.

Tenth—The State Treasurer, Superintendent of Common Schools, and a Lieutenant Governor, the latter to preside over the Senate, not perform the duties of Governor in case of his absence, sickness or death, should be elected by the people. The Attorney General, Secretary of State and the Adjutant General, should for obvious reasons, continue to be appointed by the Governor.

Eleventh—The day for holding the annual elections could with great propriety be changed from the second Tuesday in October to the same day in November on which nearly all the surrounding States now hold theirs. This would dispense with one election, and a fourth vote, and prevent the return from other States for the purpose of interfering with our elections, as the citizens of each State would be occupied with their own season, too, would be more satisfactory to the people of the agricultural districts, as it would not interfere with the harvesting of their corn and other summer productions.

The necessity for constitutional reform is appreciated and admitted by all who have reflected upon the subject, and without distinction of party, the press has been outspoken, and has almost unanimously sanctioned the calling, at an early day, of a constitutional convention.

For these reasons, and many others equally important which might be enumerated, I earnestly recommend that the Legislature make provision for a convention to thoroughly revise and amend the Constitution of the State.

REVISION OF THE CIVIL CODE.

The commissioners to revise the statutes have completed their work. The entire laws of the Commonwealth, including those of British origin, except such as relate to crime, have been revised, digested and systematically arranged in one volume of less than three hundred pages, or about one-third the size of Purdon's Digest. Our laws are the accretions of nearly one hundred seventy years. Many of them are incongruous and disjointed enactments, which have been increasing from time to time by fragmentary legislation, without any attempt at system, logical arrangement, or conciseness. The commissioners, in examining the statutes, have been able to give the revision, I am satisfied that in the discharge of their duty, the commissioners have exercised a most commendable ability and attention to the duties assigned them, and have labored with a view to throw much of our special legislation into the courts, where it may be disposed of with more intelligence, fairness and certainties, and a great saving in our annual expenditures.

WRITS OF ERROR IN CRIMINAL CASES.

At the last session of the Legislature an act was passed, entitled "An act to allow writs of error in cases of murder and voluntary manslaughter." The first section provides that a writ of error "shall be of right, and may be sued out upon the oath of the defendant or defendants, or their counsel."

The second section provides that it is the duty of the Judges of the Supreme Court, in all such cases, to review and try the law and the facts.

Before this enactment the law required the defendant to allege that some error had been committed by the court in the trial, and if there was nothing within thirty days, why the writ of error should be granted; but it was left to the court to say whether error is alleged or not, and allows the defendant seven years in which to issue it, *according to the practice in chancery cases*. Instead of being a writ that is ordinarily issue the warrant for execution of any criminal until the expiration of the thirty days' limitation within he was permitted to apply for his writ of error. That limitation of thirty days being now virtually repealed, and seven years substituted therefor, is it expected the warrant shall be withheld for the seven years? Shall we have seven years' terror? And if issued at any time within the seven years, may not the criminal supercede it at any time he chooses by his writ of error? Is there not a time reasonably expected that this will be the practical result in every such case? This would seem like trifling with very serious matters, and I respectfully submit whether the act of last session should not be repealed, or immediately modified, to prevent delay. In my message of 10th January, 1870, returning the bill with my objections, I gave sundry reasons why it should not be approved, and the views therein expressed remain unchanged; and the Supreme Court, in the case of Mercur vs. Commonwealth, express their opinion of this enactment as follows:

"It is not improper before closing to say a few words in reference to the act of 1870, to draw attention to some of its defects, and to the radical change in our criminal jurisprudence which it seems to have was passed for this case, but owing to the Governor's veto failed to become a law. It is evident from that laws which are the offspring of feeling are seldom wisely framed. It commands this court to review the testimony in every case on the single ingredients to constitute murder in the first degree were proved to exist; and yet in forgetfulness of the former law, it says in terms that we shall *take, preserve, and bring up the evidence*. This, however, is a mere matter of detail. The act under it, proves its inefficiency, the judge below returning to our *certiorari* that he was not able to make the evidence concise. He is not to be blamed by law to take the testimony or to certify it. A bill of exceptions brings up only so much of the evidence as may be required to explain the point of law objected to."

The effect of this law seems not to have excited attention. It has changed the whole doctrine of the criminal law as to the speed and certainty of punishment, and in fact has changed it in the case of life, and of escape, not only from the law's delay, but by prison breach. It will not be more than five years to exhaust the greater portion of the schools, and the children remaining must be from time to time have to be concentrated in a few of the schools which shall be deemed the best, to the big the concern.

The expenditures of the system for the school year ending June 5, 1870, were as follows, viz:

For education and maintenance of children in advanced schools	$288,900 67
For education and maintenance of children in primary schools	101,475 58
For education and maintenance of children in homes	65,266 42
For clothing, shoes, making, mending, &c	53,993 75
For partial relief of 13 children, at $30 each	390 00
For general expenses	9,100 00
Total expenses	514,126 42
Total appropriations	494,126 42
Balance	$19,426 42

The sum appropriated is for the amount estimated by the Superintendent in his report of 1869, but owing to the extreme pressure of the guardians and relatives of pupils in the soldiers' orphan schools, the Superintendent, with my consent, admitted a larger number of children than he originally estimated for; the increase being principally in the primary schools, necessarily and unavoidably accrued.

Under an act, entitled "An Act to provide means for establishing a soldiers' orphans' school in each State Normal School District in this Commonwealth, now established, approved April 15, 1869, and a supplement thereto, approved March 28, 1868, the sum of two millions dollars was appropriated out of the State Treasury as a loan to five institutions. These being fully established, are repaying this loan at the rate of the interest on the sum for the time it is used. Sixteen thousand eight hundred dollars of this loan remained unpaid on May 31, 1870, and owing to the change of the form of settlements which, by law, went into operation at that time, it was, by the Auditor General, deducted from the appropriation by the accounting officers, and consequently bills for education and maintenance for that term are for the gross amount unpaid.

No special appropriation for this amount is asked; but all that is required is the passage of a joint resolution, authorizing its payment from the sum appropriated for the expenses of the current year, which, in consequence of a reduction in prices, I am informed will exceed them to about the amount of the said balance.

The law passed, however, a resolution is necessary, because the institutions to which the money is due cannot afford to wait long for it without serious inconvenience. Provision should also be made by the Legislature that, as the said sum of 16,800 is repaid in quarterly instalments by institutions from which it is due, it shall be applied to the reimbursement of the funds appropriated for the advances thus made.

The Superintendent estimates the expenditures for education, maintenance, clothing, &c., of 3,600 children, during the year terminating May 31, 1872, at $500,000. After a careful examination I find it correct, and respectfully request an appropriation for that amount. This estimate will, it is believed, enable the Superintendent to admit all proper applicants. It is $99,000 less than the appropriation for the current year, and it is confidently anticipated that hereafter each succeeding estimate for annual expenses will be much more largely decreased.

I have personally visited, inspected and examined quite a number of these schools since the adjournment of the last Legislature, and I do not hesitate to pronounce most of them superior, in all respects, to any other institutions of the character in the country. The supervision of the Superintendent and the male and female inspectors has been exceedingly faithful and effective, and those having the schools in charge, with but few exceptions, are displayed a devotion to their duties, and to the interests of the children, as unexceptionable as if dictated by the purest parental affection.

The sanitary condition of these children is one of the most remarkable features of the schools. During the five years they have been in operation, out of 5,063 children, only seventy-one have died, which is but little over one and four-tenths of one per cent. per annum. Of this number, one hundred and two from three-tenths of one per cent. per annum. These facts are honorable evidences of the care and attention that have been bestowed upon these institutions.

The establishment of these schools, and the liberal encouragement and support they have received, have met the approval and admiration not only of the other States of the Union, but of the entire civilized world. Philanthropists and statesmen from foreign nations are constantly making inquiries concerning the laws governing and directing the operations of our soldiers' orphans' schools, their management and the results, and give the highest assurance of unqualified commendation.

The system, I trust, sufficiently satisfactory to prompt a continuance of the generous patronage already extended to an institution unsurpassed in the history of the entire civilized world. Philanthropists and statesmen from foreign nations are constantly making inquiries concerning the laws governing and directing the operations of our soldiers' orphans' schools, their management and the results, and give the highest assurance of unqualified commendation.

The Legislature, at its session of 1869, passed an act, entitled "An act to locate the southern boundary line of the Commonwealth."

In conformity therewith commissioners were appointed to run and locate the line, which they have somely printed and substantially bound, have been completed, and the same is now ready for delivery. It is embraced before the first of June next. The book, itself, affords the best commentary or criticism of the work of the session. The duty has been discharged in its duties. It puts in concise form and perpetuates the most important of our history, other data would have been forever lost. Hereafter it will be invaluable to the Commonwealth.

RIGHTS OF FRENCH CITIZENS.

By the seventh article of a consular convention between France and the United States, signed at Paris, the 23d of February, 1853, and ratified, it has been ratified to this subject by a letter from Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State of the United States, dated May 9, 1870, inclosing a copy of a communication from the Minister of France to the United States, resident at Washington. It will be seen from the papers by said seventh article, and a copy of my reply thereto, dated April 14, 1870, which were referred to the Legislature for information, and with the recommendation that the subject be carefully considered, and such action be taken thereon as will put the statutes of the State conform to our obligations under the provision of the convention.

NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

On the first of July, 1870, an act of Congress was passed amendatory to the act, entitled "An Act to establish and protect National Cemeteries," approved February 22, 1867. The object of these laws is to secure the care and preservation of those who have died in the service of the country, and to secure the consent of the several States in which they are located. The report of the Secretary of War, just published, gives a full description of the educational and financial condition of the colleges, with the statistics and results of the experimental farms during the year just ended.

MILITARY.

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The expenditures of the system for the school year ending June 5, 1870, were as follows, viz:

For education and maintenance of children in advanced schools	$288,900 67
For education and maintenance of children in primary schools	101,475 58
For education and maintenance of children in homes	65,266 42
For clothing, shoes, making, mending, &c	53,993 75
For partial relief of 13 children, at $30 each	390 00
For general expenses	9,100 00
Total expenses	514,126 42
Total appropriations	494,126 42
Balance	$19,426 42

The sum appropriated is for the amount estimated by the Superintendent in his report of 1869, but owing to the extreme pressure of the guardians and relatives of pupils in the soldiers' orphan schools, the Superintendent, with my consent, admitted a larger number of children than he originally estimated for; the increase being principally in the primary schools, necessarily and unavoidably accrued.

Under an act, entitled "An Act to provide means for establishing a soldiers' orphans' school in each State Normal School District in this Commonwealth, now established, approved April 15, 1869, and a supplement thereto, approved March 28, 1868, the sum of two millions dollars was appropriated out of the State Treasury as a loan to five institutions. These being fully established, are repaying this loan at the rate of the interest on the sum for the time it is used. Sixteen thousand eight hundred dollars of this loan remained unpaid on May 31, 1870, and owing to the change of the form of settlements which, by law, went into operation at that time, it was, by the Auditor General, deducted from the appropriation by the accounting officers, and consequently bills for education and maintenance for that term are for the gross amount unpaid.

No special appropriation for this amount is asked; but all that is required is the passage of a joint resolution, authorizing its payment from the sum appropriated for the expenses of the current year, which, in consequence of a reduction in prices, I am informed will exceed them to about the amount of the said balance.

The law passed, however, a resolution is necessary, because the institutions to which the money is due cannot afford to wait long for it without serious inconvenience. Provision should also be made by the Legislature that, as the said sum of 16,800 is repaid in quarterly instalments by institutions from which it is due, it shall be applied to the reimbursement of the funds appropriated for the advances thus made.

The Superintendent estimates the expenditures for education, maintenance, clothing, &c., of 3,600 children, during the year terminating May 31, 1872, at $500,000. After a careful examination I find it correct, and respectfully request an appropriation for that amount. This estimate will, it is believed, enable the Superintendent to admit all proper applicants. It is $99,000 less than the appropriation for the current year, and it is confidently anticipated that hereafter each succeeding estimate for annual expenses will be much more largely decreased.

I have personally visited, inspected and examined quite a number of these schools since the adjournment of the last Legislature, and I do not hesitate to pronounce most of them superior, in all respects, to any other institutions of the character in the country. The supervision of the Superintendent and the male and female inspectors has been exceedingly faithful and effective, and those having the schools in charge, with but few exceptions, are displayed a devotion to their duties, and to the interests of the children, as unexceptionable as if dictated by the purest parental affection.

The sanitary condition of these children is one of the most remarkable features of the schools. During the five years they have been in operation, out of 5,063 children, only seventy-one have died, which is but little over one and four-tenths of one per cent. per annum. Of this number, one hundred and two from three-tenths of one per cent. per annum. These facts are honorable evidences of the care and attention that have been bestowed upon these institutions.

The establishment of these schools, and the liberal encouragement and support they have received, have met the approval and admiration not only of the other States of the Union, but of the entire civilized world. Philanthropists and statesmen from foreign nations are constantly making inquiries concerning the laws governing and directing the operations of our soldiers' orphans' schools, their management and the results, and give the highest assurance of unqualified commendation.

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The Legislature, at its session of 1869, passed an act, entitled "An Act to locate the southern boundary line of the Commonwealth."

In conformity therewith commissioners were appointed to run and locate the line, which they have somely printed and substantially bound, have been completed, and the same is now ready for delivery. It is embraced before the first of June next. The book, itself, affords the best commentary or criticism of the work of the session. The duty has been discharged in its duties. It puts in concise form and perpetuates the most important of our history, other data would have been forever lost. Hereafter it will be invaluable to the Commonwealth.

RIGHTS OF FRENCH CITIZENS.

By the seventh article of a consular convention between France and the United States, signed at Paris, the 23d of February, 1853, and ratified, it has been ratified to this subject by a letter from Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State of the United States, dated May 9, 1870, inclosing a copy of a communication from the Minister of France to the United States, resident at Washington. It will be seen from the papers by said seventh article, and a copy of my reply thereto, dated April 14, 1870, which were referred to the Legislature for information, and with the recommendation that the subject be carefully considered, and such action be taken thereon as will put the statutes of the State conform to our obligations under the provision of the convention.

NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

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No special appropriation for this amount is asked; but all that is required is the passage of a joint

to the State Treasury and Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. This is the same bill passed by the House, last session, but defeated in the Senate, with the exception of the next two sections, which were incorporated in the general bill as amended.

It provides that the State Treasurer shall keep the public moneys in the state or national banks which will pay the best rate of interest, and that it shall be the duty of the State Treasurer and the banks holding deposits to make monthly reports, under oath, to the Auditor General specifying the amount of money in each, the average balances, and the rate of interest allowed; that the State Treasurer shall not, during his continuance in office or afterwards, receive any gift, bonus or advantage whatever, from the depositaries; that violation of the law shall be a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for five years. The last section provides for the redemption, annually, of certificates by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, of so much of the State debt as the funds in the Treasury will warrant. Mr. Brown said that a similar bill was passed at the late session of Allegheny county, and he was informed that the county would realize an interest upon her public moneys of over twenty-five thousand dollars this year. If this bill was passed, the State would realize annually one hundred thousand dollars, and the disgraceful struggle for the control of State Treasurer would be avoided.

By Mr. White—A joint resolution extending the time for the report of the Civil Code Commissioners twenty days. Passed.

By Mr. Graham—Legalizing one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of sewerage bonds issued by the Allegheny City Council. Passed.

By Mr. Evans—Empowering attorneys to administer oaths and acknowledge deeds.

By Mr. White—Providing for a committee of three to act with a like committee, to consider the propriety of contracting for a Legislative Record, to report by bill or otherwise. Mr. Billingfelt opposed placing any power in the hands of the committee to contract. The resolution passed.

By Mr. Manners—A resolution for a committee of three, to act with a similar House committee, in conjunction with the Governor, to procure a place suitable for the accommodation of Ballentine's painting of the Battle of Gettysburg. Mr. Brodhead moved a postponement. The motion was carried.

The resolution offered yesterday, calling upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth for the Septennial census, is finally passed.

Mr. Buckalew offered the following:

Resolved, That it will be expedient to amend the rules of the Senate as follows:

To abolish the previous question; to prohibit explanations by members, pending the taking of the yeas and nays; to define the duties and powers of the Speaker holding over from the former session; to provide for the election of Senate officers on the plan of free voting, whenever two or more run for the same office; and to enforce the observance of the Senate rules without suspension at any session.

Laid Over.

A message was received from the Governor vetoing an act incorporating the Monongahela Oil and Pipe Company, passed last winter. The veto was sustained. The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Resolutions and Bills.

Mr. Smith offered a resolution appointing a committee of thirteen on apportionment.

Mr. Smith's resolution for a committee on the *Legislative Record* was postponed on motion of Mr. Reinoehl.

Mr. Hall offered a resolution extending the time for the report of the Civil Code Commissioners. Passed.

The message was presented and read.

Mr. Strang offered a resolution referring the various portions of the Governor's message to the appropriate committees. The resolution relates to resolutions on the use of the United States troops in Philadelphia at the last election. The resolution passed.

Mr. Smith offered a resolution for a committee on the Gettysburg painting. Referred.

Mr. Lann introduced a resolution for a special committee of nine on constitutional reform. Passed.

Mr. Mellvaine introduced a bill for the erection of Allegheny river at Franklin. Passed.

Mr. Josephs introduced a resolution for printing seven thousand copies of the Governor's message. Mr. Elliott opposed the printing of the message, because it contained matter in relation to the use of troops at the election in Philadelphia, necessary to protect colored voters. Pending this the House adjourned.

Numerous Vetoes.

The Governor sent in large numbers of vetoes for various reasons. Some are special tricks, to avoid certain laws. One refers to a charter which never had existence. Another covers two pages and enacts no less than eight distinct laws, without a period or comma. Another appears to take private property for private use. Two others are exact duplicates of laws already signed. A sad commentary on the reckless legislation of 1870.

Adjournment To-Day.

Both Houses will adjourn to-morrow until Tuesday afternoon, when the Stan-ding Committees will be announced.

Condemning the Message.

The Republican members generally condemn that portion of the Governor's message referring to the United States Marines at the election in Philadelphia.

Attempted Assassination of Senator Petriken by the Fourth Ward Crowd.

HARRISBURG, January 3.—There was considerable excitement over a rumored attempt to assassinate Senator Petriken last evening. He had left his room at the Bolton House. While the effort is being made to discredit the story, it is published on the basement of bullets which were not there yesterday. Rumor says that Petriken had been the cause of the defeat of Ahern, a candidate for Sergeant-at-Arms. The Fourth ward crowd marched into the Bolton House, and in addition to heaping indignities upon the senator, discharged several private items through his door.

THE WAR.

ACTIVITY OF FRENCH FORCES.

French Victory Near Baplaume.

PROGRESS OF BOMBARDMENT OF PARISIAN FORTS.

Gen. Trochu Accused of Feebleness.

ENGLAND.

Skirmishes and Rumors Thereof.

LONDON, January 4.—A telegram from Dashe reports fighting on Sunday, 1st inst., on the Swiss frontier, in consequence of which the Federal French troops retreated into Switzerland, where they were disarmed by the Federal soldiers.

A severe engagement is reported to have occurred on Monday, 2d inst., at Delle, Department of Haut Rhine, eleven miles from Belfort, but no particulars have come to hand.

A dispatch from Lille reports a vague rumor of a battle on Monday between Arras and Cambrai, at Sapignes and Bapaume, in which there were heavy losses on both sides. The Prussians are said to have been defeated along the whole line.

Faidherbe's Movements.

More reliable information has been received as to the movements of the French Army of the North, under command of General Faidherbe. It appears to have occupied the towns of Achrit and Briencourt after a trifling resistance from the Germans. The towns of Envillers and Behagnes were also carried by the French after hard fighting. Losses heavy on both sides.

William the Victorious.

LONDON, January 4.—At a New Year's banquet at Versailles, the King gave a toast to the German princes, to which the Duke of Baden responded in a speech, rejoicing in the glorious restoration of the German Empire, and concluding with a toast to "William the Victorious."

Suffering in Paris.

A letter from Paris states that the citizens suffer greatly from lack of fuel and food. The severity of the latter want is, however, mitigated by stores officially distributed by the Municipal Authorities.

Austria Arresting Frenchmen.

It is announced that Austria will arrest and detain all French prisoners who escape into her territory during the war.

Movements of Bourbaki.

Special to the World.]

LONDON, January 4.—Gen. Bourbaki has divided his forces, one column moving on Clunons and the other on Orleans, via Gien.

Not So.

LONDON, January 4.—The report that Austria is about to send a Plenipotentiary to Versailles is authoritatively contradicted.

Prussian Spoils.

By the surrender of Mezieres 3,000 prisoners, 106 guns, and a quantity of stores fell into the hands of the Germans.

FRANCE.

German Progress.

VERSAILLES, January 3, *via* LONDON, January 4.—The bombardment of the forts on the right of the Seine continues with great vigor, but only Fort Nogent now replies to the German fire.

Faidherbe Claims a Victory.

BORDEAUX, January 4.—The following is official: General Faidherbe sends the following dispatch to the Minister of War: "We have fought a battle near Baplaume, which lasted from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M. on Monday. We have driven the Prussians from all their positions and the villages occupied by them. The enemy's losses were enormous. Ours are serious."

Parisians Accuse Trochu of Feebleness.

Paris advices show intense excitement among the population, who demand that a grand sortie be made. A number of mayors of the city had called upon General Trochu and insisted that he give way to this desire of the people. Some Paris journals accuse Trochu of feebleness, and a number of newspapers at Bordeaux, noting this expression of opinion, seem to coincide with it.

Forces in Very Active.

It is understood that orders have been sent to the Generals in the field to hasten the movement on Paris. A new General has been sent to command the French forces at Havre. The evacuation of Rouen by the Prussians is considered evasive, as Mantenuffel is forced to concentrate his forces in the North, by the forward movement of General Faidherbe. Along the valley of the Tolle, and possibly of the Aise, General Chanzy continues to meet with successes over the enemy, and with his flying columns. The Algerian cavalry routed a body of Prussians yesterday.

Ducrot Interviewed.

BORDEAUX, January 1.—I have just obtained an interview with Ducrot, who arrived from Paris yesterday by balloon. He left on the morning of the 29th, Ducrot, in 1848, was Prefect of Police under the Republic, and now has confidential relations with the Government. On reaching Ducrot, I said, you know of what our men consist. We have not heard a murmur. All are contented to suffer under the circumstances, and are even happy, some novelty pleasing our people even in the privations they are compelled to undergo. Booths, always erected at this season of the year, appeared on the boulevards as usual, and the people promenade the Champs Elysees. Hacks are few, but omnibuses are running, and outward signs of distress are limited.

Report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE SINKING FUND, TREASURY DEPARTMENT OF PENNA., HARRISBURG, January 3, 1871.

Balance in Treasury, December 31, 1870	$ 1,381,887 67
Applicable to the payment of Over-due Loans, Relief Notes and Interest Certificates, in Gold	292,708 36
	$ 1,138,875 31
Amount of Principal of Loan of June 11, 1840, payable on demand	$ 562,410 49
LOANS REDEEMED DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1870.	
Five per cent. Loan Act of July 16, 1850, par in Gold	1,000 00
Five per cent. Loan Act of February 2, 1867, third series, 103 and Interest	1,000 00
Six per cent. Loan Act of February 2, 1867, first series, 103 and Interest	1,000 00
Six per cent. Loan Act of May 15, 1861, 102 and Interest	11,000 00
Total	$ 14,000 00
DEBT BEARING COIN INTEREST.	
Four and a half per cent. Bonds	$ 112,000 00
Five per cent. Bonds	4,768,750 49
Six per cent. Bonds	3,158,250 00
Total	$ 8,039,000 49
DEBT BEARING CURRENCY INTEREST.	
Five per cent	$ 909,300 00
Six per cent	21,860,900 00
Total	$22,860,100 00
DEBT ON WHICH INTEREST HAS BEEN STOPPED.	
Five per cent	$ 147,177 80
Six per cent	9,188 56
Total	$ 156,226 36
DEBT BEARING NO INTEREST.	
Loan Relief, Act of May 4, 1841	$ 96,383 00
Internal Certificates, unclaimed	4,448 00
Domestic Creditors	4,467 67
Total	$ 100,875 00
RECAPITULATION OF PUBLIC DEBT.	
Debt Bearing Coin Interest	$ 8,039,000 49
Debt Bearing Interest in U S Currency	22,860,100 00
Debt on which Interest has been Stopped	156,226 36
Debt Bearing no Interest	100,875 00
Total Debt December 31, 1870	$31,097,201 85
Amount of Debt Redeemed and Purchased since November 30, 1869	$ 1,737,379 64

Published in compliance with section 8 of the Act approved April 16, 1870.

F. JORDAN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.
F. P. MICHELBACH,
Auditor General.
W. W. HEWIT,
State Treasurer.
Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

THE PUBLIC DEBT

Official Statement for December.

THE DECREASE DURING THE MONTH $2,210,700.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 3.—Following is an abstract of the debt statement:

Bearing coin interest	$1,935,342,700 00
Interest	45,930,928 00
Bearing currency interest	58,225,362 00
Interest	446,631 00
Matured debt	7,315,822 00
Interest	631,751 00
Bearing no interest	422,245,175 00
Unclaimed Pacific Railroad bonds	13,695 00
Total debt, principal	$2,423,132,060 00
Interest	47,022,306 00
Total	$2,470,154,366 00
Cash in Treasury—coin	$ 107,892,980 00
Currency	30,284,292 00
Total	$ 138,086,572 00
Debt less cash in Treasury	2,332,067,794 00
Decrease during the past month	2,240,700 00
Decrease since March 1, 1870	$ 106,260,683 00

The total interest payable in coin on the Pacific Railroad companies is $64,618,832, on which the United States has paid in interest $8,815,345, of which $2,460,816 has been repaid by the transportation of mails, Government supplies, etc. The interest accrued, but not yet paid, amounts to $1,938,564. The Union Pacific has received $27,236,572 in bonds, on which the Government has paid $2,878,-916 interest. Above disbursements by transportations, and to the Central Pacific $25,881,000 in bonds, on which the Government has advanced $3,020,129 in payment of interest.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 4, 1871.

Sumner's Investigation Resolutions Pass.

Business in the Senate opened quite lively to-day. Besides numerous bills of minor importance, Sunday Summer got his two resolutions of inquiry through without objection, and a bill authorizing the issuing of an

Additional Three Hundred Millions

of five per cent. bonds, reported from the Finance Committee by Mr. Sherman, was passed without debate. This latter action occasioned much surprise, as it was believed that much time would be absorbed in its consideration.

Unconstitutional to Relieve Senators from Importunity.

Mr. Trumbull's bill to relieve members of Congress from importunity, making it a penal offense to recommend applicants for position, was not so fortunate. Mr. Morton and others argued at length against it, taking the ground that it was unconstitutional, and that it was depriving Senators of their just rights. The morning hour expired before the consideration of the bill was finished.

In the House.

The House had no quorum to-day, but debate on the regular order, being the bill for the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, was allowed to run on during the morning hour, when adjournment was carried. Before announcing the vote, a large number of bills were introduced and referred.

Small Chance for San Domingo.

The San Domingo question occupied only a few minutes, but long enough to show that Morton's resolution will not get through as easily as was expected. There was great confidence, before the House was called to order, among to the special champions of the measure that it would be passed immediately after the close of the morning hour. The discovery that the House was without a quorum was a great disappointment. Before the session was over, it seemed to be agreed that the resolution could not be reached for a vote before Monday, and there appeared to be less confidence felt in the ability to rally the necessary two-thirds vote for it then. Mr. Banks gave notice that he should report this resolution on Monday under authority of the House to report on giving five days notice. This notice, however, did not have the sanction of his committee, and this fact is making some trouble. Mr. Wood, of Banks's committee, on his own account, offered a resolution of inquiry covering ground similar to that of Sumner's, which led Mr. Orth, of Indiana, and some others to make such marked opposition to it, as to show that those managing the San Domingo matter did not intend to have such information, as the files of the Department contain, made public if it could be avoided. Mr. Fitch, of Nevada, gave notice of an amendment to the Morton resolution. Altogether the indications are very marked that the resolution will encounter a rough time in the House. One of the prominent supporters of the annexation expressed the opinion after the adjournment, that the proceedings of to-day decided the fate of annexation for the present Congress, as after this week it will be impossible to get a majority of the commissioners in time for the session.

An Important Suit.

R. M. Corwine made the closing argument to-day in the case of Marshall O. Roberts *vs.* the United States, before the Court of Claims, involving a claim for extra mail service rendered the Government between the years 1851 and 1859. This case has attracted much attention here and in New York, by reason of the magnitude of the sum involved and its concerning an important period in the history of the growth and development of the Pacific coast. The line for whose benefit the suit was brought was the first established between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Sudden Death.

Charles L. Miller, clerk to the Senate Committee on Commerce, died very suddenly at the Capitol this morning, while attending to his business. He was in good health, early in the day, and walked to the Capitol from his hotel. The cause of death was pronounced to be apoplexy. He has resided here for some years past, during the sessions of Congress, but his wife and two children live in Sault City, Michigan, to which place his body will be sent for interment.

New Rule to Civil Service Reform.

Mr. Coburn, of Indiana, has introduced a bill the purpose of which is to make a large number of offices now filled by appointments, elective. The bill leaves the diplomatic offices, department offices and judiciary offices as at present, to be filled by appointment, but it makes elective, postmasters, officers of the internal revenue and customs, land officers, pension officers and all other local officers, engaged in the civil administration of the Government. The intention is to give to the people a large share of what is now known as the patronage of the Executive. It is evident that the originator of the measure regards it as a safeguard against the dangerous exercise of executive authority by the agency. Under the proposed system, no requirements of obedience to the instructions and authority of the President are abrogated. It is claimed that the experience of the recent war showed that appointed officers were as powerless as those elected to maintain the authority of the Government in rebellious localities, and showed no more disposition to do so.

Portland and Louisville Canal Appropriation.

The bill reported by Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, making a appropriation of $300,000 for the present work on the Portland and Louisville Canal, will be called up next week. The opinion of the members of the Appropriation Committee is that it will pass with little opposition.

Money to Schenck.

The Ways and Means Committee will meet to-morrow to consider the time and place for giving their late Chairman, General Schenck, a farewell dinner.

Relief for Sufferers on Indian Lands.

The point of the resolution introduced by Senator Ross and passed to-day by the Senate, will prove a practical relief to the settlers on the Osage lands in Kansas. There are about thirty towns on lands, some of them containing one thousand inhabitants, and under no existing law can titles be obtained by the residents thereon. The resolution provides for this defect, while at the same time protecting whatever rights existing laws give to the Indians.

Indian Agent Discharged.

Secretary Delano to-day directed Commissioner Parker to notify William J. Cady, an Indian Agent, that his services were no longer required. Cady was Chief Clerk of the Indian Bureau, a few months since, and was made agent a short time before Congress met.

Truce on Missouri Affairs.

The Postmaster General has announced a truce with Asper, Boyd and such members of the House as did not support McClurg, in the last election.

The Newport Bridge.

Mr. Stevenson, of Ohio, to-day introduced the following:

Resolved, That it shall be unlawful for the Newport and Cincinnati Bridge Company, or any other company or person, to proceed in the construction of the bridge now being erected over the Ohio river from Cincinnati to Newport unless the plan of said bridge shall be so modified, as to conform to the recommendation of the Board of Engineers appointed to examine the bridges over the Ohio river as contained in the official report submitted to Congress by the Secretary of War.

Indian Appropriation.

The Indian appropriation bill was reported to-day The appropriations aggregate $4,300,000, a sum considerably less than last year.

Cox on Civil Service Reform.

The article of Ex-Secretary Cox on the Civil Service reform is attracting general attention here. The "men inside politics" don't like it.

WASHINGTON, January 4, 1871.

NOMINATIONS.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate to-day: D. E. Lyon, Surveyor of Customs, Dubuque; M. D. Leggett, of Ohio, to be Commissioner of Patents; J. A. Simms, Indian Agent, Umatilla agency, Washington Territory; R. J. Monroe, Receiver of the Public Money, Lewistown, Idaho; C. B. Lewis, Pension Agent, Topeka, Kansas; Postmasters—J. M. Boreman, Parkersburg, West Virginia; H. B. Wells, Dowagiac, Michigan; C. B. Reeve, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin; J. D. Parmelee, Aurora, Illinois.

SAN DOMINGO COMMISSION AND OTHER MATTERS.

The returned members are earnestly consulting each other on the future business of the session, and the fate of the San Domingo subject seems to be uppermost in the minds of all. None doubt the passage of the Senate resolutions by the House, but it is generally regarded as uncertain, if not improbable, that there remains sufficient time for the proposed commission to visit San Domingo and devote the proper investigations to the subject to make an intelligent report on all the matters regarding which Congressmen are most anxious to be informed. Allowing that the commission makes the trip in a month or six weeks from the time of starting, it is feared, even in the face of the scheme, that the delay in printing, considering and debating the Commissioners' report and the tedious discussion likely to arise in both Houses on the annexation proposition, whatever may be the recommendations of the report, will consume so much time that the close of the session will arrive and defeat any action whatever. In regard to the other business of the session, members say that in many localities, should no more disposition to do so. The determination of the Democrats in the House is a little bunsess as possible, and to take action only on questions which are of general public importance, and to avoid legislation for the benefit of classes, corporations, or individuals.

REDEMPTION OF MATURED BONDS.

The officers of the Treasury Department have been engaged during the past week in paying such bonds as have been presented of United States Fives of 1865 and 1867. This loan matured on the 1st inst, but it is found that most of it is owned abroad, and by London bankers. The loan, of which only $7,020,000 was issued, was designed to redeem outstanding Treasury notes and replace those in the Treasury received for custom dues, &c. The amount authorized was $20,000,000, at five per cent interest, issued in registered bonds of $1,000 and $5,000, and in coupon bonds of $1,000 denominations.

PRIVATE BILL VETOED.

The President vetoed the House bill No. 1,395, entitled an act for the relief of Charles Cooper Goshorn, Jones Jerome Cowley, William Hannegan and John Hannegan, for the following reasons: The act directs the discontinuance of a suit at law now pending in the United States District Court, but not in the Circuit Court of the United States for the Northern District of Ohio, between the heirs of Cowley nor the proviso refers to the obligees of said bond, who are released from all liability to the United States for the same, by abandon or release any pretended claim against the Government.

THE PUBLIC DEBT

Official Statement for December.

THE DECREASE DURING THE MONTH $2,210,700.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 3.—Following is an abstract of the debt statement:

Bearing coin interest	$1,935,342,700 00
Interest	45,930,928 00
Bearing currency interest	58,225,362 00
Interest	446,631 00
Matured debt	7,315,822 00
Interest	631,751 00
Bearing no interest	422,245,175 00
Unclaimed Pacific Railroad bonds	13,695 00
Total debt, principal	$2,423,132,060 00
Interest	47,022,306 00
Total	$2,470,154,366 00
Cash in Treasury—coin	$ 107,892,980 00
Currency	30,284,292 00
Total	$ 138,086,572 00
Debt less cash in Treasury	2,332,067,794 00
Decrease during the past month	2,240,700 00
Decrease since March 1, 1870	$ 106,260,683 00

The total interest payable in coin on the Pacific Railroad companies is $64,618,832, on which the United States has paid in interest $8,815,345, of which $2,460,816 has been repaid by the transportation of mails, Government supplies, etc. The interest accrued, but not yet paid, amounts to $1,938,564. The Union Pacific has received $27,236,572 in bonds, on which the Government has paid $2,878,-916 interest. Above disbursements by transportations, and to the Central Pacific $25,881,000 in bonds, on which the Government has advanced $3,020,129 in payment of interest.

FINANCE AND TRADE

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 4, 1871.

The improvement in the local money market for the past few days of the new year has been so trifling that it barely shows a turn in affairs for the better. Expectations of an immediate "let up" and an easy market have been so sanguinely entertained by many parties who have been anxiously looking for it, that they are apt to become impatient at any apparent delay. There is at this time considerable activity in the market, consequent upon settlement season, which will greatly increase during the next fortnight, and we usually have a good supply of paper growing out of these settlements, which comes upon the market at a favorable time, when the bank deposits have been largely augmented by an increased supply of money received from dividends and interest accounts, as well as from a great variety of sources that are opened up at the January settlements.

—The closing bank statement for the year, in response to the Comptroller of the Currency, who has designated the 30th of last month as the time to make up their reports, is promptly before the public, and so far as our own banks are concerned the exhibit shows a large increase in the volume of business, and a full reserve up to the requirements of law. It is said that the Secretary of the Treasury will catch up some of the New York city banks who were suspected of assisting in the recent conspiracy to lock up the money market to the great detriment of trade, and the interests of business men generally.

—The New York *Evening Post* of yesterday says: Since the passage of the Treasury Department bill published his programme for bond purchases and gold sales during January, which is as follows:

GOLD SALES.

Wednesday, January 4	$2,000,000
Wednesday, January 11	2,000,000
Wednesday, January 18	2,000,000
Wednesday, January 25	1,000,000
Total	$6,000,000

BOND PURCHASES.

Thursday, January 5	$1,000,000
Thursday, January 12	1,000,000
Thursday, January 19	1,000,000
Thursday, January 26	1,000,000
Total	$4,000,000

It will be observed that the bond purchases are made on Wednesday, and the gold sales on Thursday, and that the bond purchases have been confined to four millions; two slight concessions on the part of the Secretary to the demands of the business community. These concessions, it is to be regretted, were not made last month, when the necessity for him to unlock the money market, was greatest, and now. The apparently semi-official apologies, telegraphed from Washington within the last few days, for the large currency and coin balances in the Treasury are good as far as they go; but are not regarded as justifying the extent to which these accumulations have been carried at a season of the year when every dollar which could have been spared should have been in circulation to meet the wants of legitimate trade.

The stock market was strong at the opening, but has since been heavy, with a principal decline, which have not been large, in New York Central and Hudson, Reading, Lake Shore, Northwest, Rock Island and St. Paul. The last named has been particularly weak, having declined to 85½@86 for common stock, and 72½ for the preferred. Saturday's steamer took out 13,000 shares of Northwest preferred, recently settled on German account; 2,000 shares bought have yet to go, and we understand that there are orders for more. Hannibal and St. Joseph advanced to 26 on the call.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following **quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:**

	Morn.	Noon.	Close.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	110¾	110¾	110¾
U. S. Bonds of 1868	108¾	108¾	108¾
U. S. Bonds of 1864	108¾	108¾	108¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865	108¾	108¾	108¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865 (new)	107¼	107¼	107¼
U. S. Bonds of 1867	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds of 1858	107¾	107¾	107¾
10-40s	106½	106½	106½
Gold	110¾	110¾	110¾

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	110¾
United States 6s of 1881	110½
United States 5-20s of 1862	108¾
United States 5-20s of 1864	108¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	108¾
United States 10-40s	106½
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	107¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	107¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	108
Central Pacific Railroad	92
Central Pacific Railroad	92
Currency Pacifics	104½

—The following table, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Apollo building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Railway Stocks, Gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange changes:

January 4, 1871.	10 A. M.	10 11 A. M.	30 12 M.	30 2 P. M.	2.30 3 P. M.
C. & H.	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
C. Scrip	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
Erie	32¾	32¾	32¾	32¾	32¾
Reading	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
Harlem		131¾			
Lake Shore	99	99¼	99	99	99
Illinois Cent.	92	92¾	91¾	92	92
Ohio & Miss.	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾
Pitts., C. & I.	105¾	106	104½	105	105
Rock Island	104¾	104¾	104¾	104¾	104¾
St. Paul	51¾	51¾	50½	50½	50½
Do. pref	73	73	73	73	73
Northwest	85¾	86	85¾	85¾	85¾
Do. pref	72¾	72¾	72¾	72¾	72¾
Fort Wayne	92¾	92¾	92¾	92¾	92¾
Ohio & Mississippi	28¾	28¾	28¾	28¾	28¾
Pacific Mail	49¾	49¾	49¾	49¾	49¾
Adams Express	64¾	64¾			
Gold	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾

A comparison between yesterday's and to-day's **quotations shows the following changes:**

	Tues.	Wed.	Adv.	Dec.
Central & Hudson	91¾	91¾		
Do. Scrip	87¾	87¾		
Erie	32¾	32¾		
Reading	99¾	99¾		
Harlem	132	131¾		¼
Illinois Central	136¼	134¾		2¼
Lake Shore	99¾	99¾		
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	105¾	106	¼	
Chicago & Northwestern	71¾	71¾		
Do. preferred	83¾	83¾		
Rock Island	104¾	105¼	½	
St. Paul	51¾	51¾		
Do. preferred	73¾	73¾		
Toledo & Wabash	49¼	49¼		
Do. preferred				
Fort Wayne	92¾	92¾		
Ohio & Mississippi	28¾	28¾		
Pacific Mail	49¾	49¾		
Adams Express	64¾	64¾		
Gold	110¾	110¾		

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Pennsylvania Central.....62¾
Philadelphia and Erie.....33½
Catawissa preferred.....46
Oil Creek and Allegheny Railroad.....46
Lehigh Valley Railroad.....60¾
North Pennsylvania Railroad.....
Camden and Amboy Railroad.....118½
Schuylkill Navigation.....16½
Reading.....49½

—**James W. Kennedy**, Broker, No. 80 Fourth avenue, (Apollo Building), dealer in Government, State and Municipal Bonds; Railroad, Bank, Insurance and Miscellaneous Stocks. Represented daily at the **New York Stock Exchange**, he executes sales and orders on a margin for the same accounts and on the same terms as the New York brokers. Money to loan in sums of $500 and upwards on collateral or well indorsed promissory notes, or on mortgages on city or Allegheny county real estate.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY, January 4, 1871. }

REMARKS.—The market continues to move along steadily, presenting nothing very new or important as relates to the leading articles of trade, and we have but few changes to note and those will be found under their appropriate heads. In a week or ten days the market will probably open up in earnest. The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce for the past two weeks.

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	5,102	3,393	8,595
Apples, bbls	468	644	1,112
Cheese, boxes	1,334	210	1,544
Corn, sacks	3,995	2,916	6,911
Wheat, sacks	1,693	956	2,649
Barley, sacks	3,456	1,903	4,359
Rye, sacks	615	282	897
Oats, sacks	2,835	2,441	5,366
Butter, packages	222	253	475
Bacon, pieces	97	238	335
Bulk meats, pieces	7,279	2,866	10,145
Dressed hogs, head	1,013	439	1,443

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce for the past two months: They will be found useful for reference.

	November.	December.	Total.
Flour, bbls	38,282	31,806	69,588
Apples, bbls	32,146	5,645	37,791
Cheese, boxes	4,899	7,036	11,935
Corn, sacks	6,467	91,041	97,496
Wheat, sacks	16,712	18,240	34,752
Barley, sacks	9,599	16,867	26,766
Rye, sacks	1,253	3,777	5,130
Oats, sacks	26,342	15,486	25,828
Butter, packages	1,334	1,259	2,593
Bacon, tierces	513	448	961
Bulk Meats, pieces	36,284	38,063	74,931
Dried Beef, pieces	76		76

The following are the wholesale prices, unless otherwise noted:

ASHES.—The receipts continue fair, the supply now on market being sufficient for all ordinary purposes. We are reported sales of refined 55 ⅌ cent. at 5½c.; common 48 ⅌ cons. 2¼c.; potash 7@7½c.; pearls 9@9½c.

APPLE BUTTER.—The supply keeps pace with the demand. Prices have undergone no change. Prices range from 60 to 70c ⅌ gallon.

BAR LEAD.—Sales in small lots at 9½c.

BROOM CORN.—Supply liberal, sales at 5@6½c ⅌ lb.

APPLES.—The market was firm, with a good trade demand at the advance we have previously noted. The receipts since our last were 77 bbls. Sales were reported at $3 00, $3 50, $3 75, and some lots are held at $4 00, although we did not learn of any sales at the latter figure.

BEANS.—Regular sales made at $1 75@2 25 ⅌ bushel, as per quality. The latter for small Navy.

BEESWAX.—Market dull at 36@38c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.—There is a fair supply, and we quote at $3 25@3 50 ⅌ cwt., and $6 50@7 00 ⅌ bbl.

BAKING POWDER—Banner, ¼-lb cans, $1 75 ⅌ doz.; ½ cans $2 25; ½ cans, $4 ⅌ doz.

BACON AND PROVISIONS.—The market was steady with a good inquiry for hams, but the high price of money operated as a check on trade, and in bacon in particular. The receipts were 225 tierces with plenty more in smokehouse that will soon be on sale. The current rates were as follows: Shoulders, plain, 13½c; sugar cured 12½c; sides, clear, 13½c; ribbed 12½c; hams sugar cured 18@18½c; canvas, plain nominal at 17c. Mess pork $21. Dried beef 18c ⅌ lb.

BUTTER.—The markets are steady but could hardly be called as firm. The fact is the holidays being over the demand was not so pressing. We quote common to medium at 20@25c; prime to choice at 28@30c; very choice at @32c. The receipts were 46 packages.

COAL.—Sales of Eastern anthracite at 9@9 50 ⅌ ton by the car load, delivered.

CORN MEAL.—Market well supplied; sales in a small way at 90@95c.

CRANBERRIES.—The supply keeps pace with the demand; we note sales of Cherry Belle berries at $9 ⅌ barrel. Prices and other descriptions sold at $10,$12@16 ⅌ barrel.

CANDLES.—In good supply; sales of mold at 12½c; star, full weight, 20c; short weight, 17c; stearine 18@ 19c ⅌ lb.

CHEESE.—The market was dull. The supply exceeds the demand. Prices weak, with sales at 8½, 9 and 9½c ⅌ lb.

CONCENTRATED LYE.—We quote Pennsylvania at $5 75@6 00; Philadelphia $5 75.

CYDER.—Sales of Louisville hydraulic at $3@3 50 ⅌ barrel. Phœnix hydraulic $2 50@2 75 ⅌ barrel.

CARBON OIL.—Prices are weak, with sales standard brands, in new barrels, at 26c in a jobbing way, and 21¾c ⅌ gallon in small lots.

CREESE.—The market was dull. The supply was more than the demand. The receipts have fallen off. We are reported sales at the following: New York Goshen 16c; Ohio 16c; Factory 15@15½c; Western Reserve 14@14½c; Sweitzer 18@18½c ⅌ lb.

DRIED FRUIT.—The market was firm, particularly for the better descriptions. Several small lots were disposed of, peaches, bright new ones being most fancied. Sales—halves 11@12c; quarters 9@9½c. Apples dull. The supply exceeds the demand. We quote nominally at 6@7c ⅌ lb.

FEATHERS.—There is a fair demand. We quote prunes 14½c; currants 13¾c; layer raisins $3 50 ⅌ box; Valencia raisins 16c ⅌ lb.

HAY.—The supply continues light, and though prices are not quotably higher, they are very firm, with an upward tendency. We quote: Baled hay, on landing, at $14, $16@17 ⅌ ton; and from wagon at $12, $16 or 18 ⅌ ton.

PEANUTS.—The market contains a fair supply with a good demand, prices ranging from 6 to 8c for new Tennessee.

EGGS.—Firm, particularly fresh ones, with sales at 31@32c; packed 24@25c ⅌ dozen.

DRESSED HOGS.—The supply is still ample, and prices are a shade lower. Receipts, 139 head. Sales are made at 7c@7½c ⅌ ℔.

FLOUR.—The market was firm with a fair demand for standard brands, the markets being reported firm. The receipts were 1,281 barrels. We are reported regular sales at the following: White wheat, fancy brands, at $7 10 in barrels, $6 50 in sacks; red whiter, fancy brands, $6 75 in barrels, $6 50 in sac

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1871.

TERMS.

One copy, per year.....$2 00
A clubs of twenty per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter up of the club.

EUROPEAN OUTLOOK.

Affairs in Europe present a very troubled and stormy aspect, and even the instrumentality devised and applied for the preservation of peace, at present seems likely to produce only fresh complications. The London Conference, from whose deliberations such advantageous results were expected, even if it has not been indefinitely postponed, as reported, is likely to find the resolutions already adopted too decided, and the passions for some time prevailing too vehement for diplomatic control or management. Indeed, it has always been difficult for disinterested parties to comprehend how a conference in the actual situation of Europe, should accomplish anything of importance. So far as the treaty of 1856 is concerned, the great object of the London meeting was to save appearances, and to make the action of Russia in nullifying the objectionable stipulation look as if sanctioned by the other parties to the engagement. As if to make that effect impossible, it is perfectly well understood that Russia entertains no thought of receding from the declarations of the GORTSCHAKOFF letter, and hence the certain failure of one object of the intended conference must have been evident in London some time ago. Another object of the meeting was supposed to be the exertion of influence in favor of peace between France and Germany. The hopelessness of such attempts must also have been clear, in view of the Prussian resolution expressed by BISMARCK, to admit of no interference from foreign powers in determining the course of the struggle, or the conditions of peace. In fact, the only subjects which the conference might seem to have any call to discuss, were from the first excluded from the programme. Both Russia and Prussia appear to have agreed to the measure simply because they could not decently refuse, but did all they could beforehand to render it of no account. France under the weight of her many calamities, might have been expected *to enter eagerly into the project.* While it has been favored by the advocates of a monarchy in that country, the Republicans have always regarded the proposed conference with distrust, and *it is* no surprise that the French Government declines to participate in its proceedings without the prior recognition of the Republic. A sense of their own dignity as well as their own advantage doubtless dictated this step. The hopes of success against the invaders with which they are at present animated, partly rest upon the spirit of republican propagandism among themselves and of republican sympathies in neighboring countries. They assert and perhaps believe that the war is only beginning, and that a republican contagion is spreading from France destined soon to set the entire continent in flames. In the presence of such hopes, their interest is doubtless small in a conference made up of English, Prussian, Russian and other diplomatists whose ideal of political perfection is found in the past, and whose efforts would be directed to quiet the people under established institutions. In connection with the contest in France and with the confidently expressed hopes of the French leaders, the violence of republican feeling in Spain as shown by late events and the alleged strength of the republican party there are full of interest, and important developments may be confidently expected. Under the restraints resting upon them the democrats in Germany make a poor show, and while German successes in France continue, much need not be expected from them. In case of reverses, things would, however, assume a new aspect.

In anticipation of such contingencies we may easily believe that the royal houses of Prussia and Russia are prepared to co-operate in the interest of conservatism. Fresh proof of their alliance is afforded in the late announcement that Roumania, governed by a Hohenzollern, has repudiated the treaty of 1856. And in this same connection peculiar interest possibly attaches to the report that England is prepared to send a fleet to the Black Sea, regardless of consequences. Evidently the situation of European affairs is beyond the reach of remedy by a diplomatic conference in London, or elsewhere. Whether a general war is to be the outcome of the complications remains to be seen.

POPULATION AND PROGRESS.

The Chicago *Tribune*, in a recent editorial article on the agricultural productiveness of Colorado, made the following statement:

"Peter Magnes, seven miles south of Denver, in the Platte Valley, obtained from four acres of winter wheat, thirty-seven and a half bushels per acre; from seventeen acres of spring wheat, not irrigated, fifty-five bushels per acre; from nine acres of barley, thirty-seven bushels per acre; from four acres English oats, fifty-eight bushels per acre; from six acres Scotch oats, fifty-three bushels per acre; two acres Swedish oats, eighty-three bushels per acre; two acres common oats, forty-three bushels per acre; ten acres rye, twenty-five bushels per acre, and from two acres of potatoes, two hundred and twenty-five bushels per acre. Mr. Magnes cultivated pretty thoroughly, but his entire cost of preparing the ditches and irrigating was only $50.

Such fertility of the soil is something rightly to be proud of, and may well excite remark in Illinois. Nevertheless, the time was when that State possessed many farms of equal fruitfulness. Ohio, too, formerly could boast of a like bounteousness. Sixty years ago, Eastern New York was a wheat-growing region. But the belt of grain-producing country has been moving, year by year, steadily westward. Judging the future by the past, how long will it be ere the rich lands of Colorado will have degenerated to less than half of their present crop capacity?

In the case above stated, it is beyond possibility that Mr. Magnes and his family, if he has one, can consume on the farm where they were grown all the wheat, oats, rye, barley and potatoes specified. If he sells any part of these products, it cannot well be to any of his agricultural neighbors, for they, too, will be sellers. How many miles, then, will his surplus bushels have to go before they find consumers? Certainly there are not people enough in the Territory to supply a home market for all the cereals its farmers can raise. All above the quantity required for that purpose must, if it finds purchasers at all, go into the hands of middle men, who will pay therefor not one-quarter of a cent more than the amount paid by the consumer, less the cost of transportation and storage, with the profits of the various parties who stand between producer and consumer; and this dimished rate regulates the price which the farmer must accept for his growths, after he has been at the expense of conveying them to the city where the trader does business. Meantime, he is damaged to the extent of the permanent loss his lands suffer by the abstraction of fertilizing matter, which is the main and essential foundation of all agricultural wealth. This capital he draws upon every twelvemonth with reckless prodigality. Every bushel of grain or other product he extorts from the soil, without returning to it an equivalent for the mineral elements taken away in the form of wheat or potatoes, decreases its subsequent power to produce with its former fruitfulness. Therefore we do not consider Mr. Magnes's boasted crop exhibit as nearly so important or significant as if it had been the effect of enriching instead of impoverishing his lands.

Nor, with present surroundings, is it probable tillage generally in Colorado can accomplish different results for years to come. Deterioration of the virgin soil is an unavoidable concomitant of pioneer settlements. In a new country, just wrested from the wilderness, material development is necessarily slow. There are too few people to the square mile to admit of grand cooperative undertakings. Railroads invariably connect large centers of population and trade, and these are of tardy growth in our remotest frontier regions. That the prospect of a speedy multiplication of railway lines, long or short, within the territory, is not very bright, may logically be inferred from the fact that, while it comprises an area of 66,880,000 acres, there remained unsold and unappropriated, up to June 30, 1867, according to official report, 62,870,665.83 acres, the difference including 3,715,555 acres of donations and grants for schools, and leaving only 293,779.17 acres as yet occupied and utilized under the several heads of Indian scrip, bounties for military services, sales and homestead entrances. This exhibit is not very promising for diversification of industry, which advances very slowly in a thinly inhabited country. Colorado does not yet average one person by the square mile. Pennsylvania, under the latest enumeration of inhabitants, averages eighty-three. The former is quite as opulent in resources of gold and silver as the latter is of coal and iron; but how feeble is the development of the one as compared with that of the other. Extent of population and accumulated wealth mark the difference. Any high degree of combined effort is incompatible with dispersed occupation of the earth. In vain shall we look for local improvements on a large scale in thinly settled countries. Power to undertake and accomplish invariably increases with increasing density of population, and diminishes with diminishing density. Under the former condition, bridges take the place of ferries, iron tracks substitute dirt roads, steamboats swarm upon the navigable rivers, canals, skirt falls and rapids, labor-saving machinery supplements the work of human hands, and the societary movement becomes rapid and efficient. Progress toward such comprehensive, complete and wide-spread development, material, intellectual and social, throughout interior region that embraces within its boundaries considerably more than twice the area of Pennsylvania, and only one eighty-third part of her inhabitants, can hardly fail to be irregular and dilatory, notwithstanding the constant augmentation of numbers by immigration.

Viewed, then, from the standpoint of national economy and growth, this uninterrupted dispersion of our population is to be considered as an element rather of weakness than of strength—as a drawback instead of an advantage. The cost of building up these interior communities in the very heart of a vast wilderness, falls with subtracting force upon the power of association and combination in other parts of the country. It may be assumed as certain that the sum total of production and prosperity in the United States would be far greater were it not for these outlying settlements, remarkable as they may be as examples of American energy, enterprise and self-reliance. In subduing those distant wilds to the uses of man, there must be much expenditure of human effort and labor that affords but meager returns and ephemeral results. A neighborhood may spend days in constructing a foot-bridge across some stream, to facilitate intercommunication, and a freshet may sweep away their work in an hour. A numerous community can build a wagon-road on scientific principles and in *the most substantial manner, but a thinly peopled region* can spare neither the time nor the money for so complete and utilitarian an accomplishment. Amid such surroundings, enormous yields of cereals from imperfect agricultural enterprise show merely that the farmer is discounting the productivity of his lands, and laying the foundation of their ultimate impoverishment. They are not results on which the country needs to be congratulated. Agriculture divorced from manufacturing industry is never to be accounted a blessing.

We know it is popular to speak of our territorial growths in terms of unbounded pride and praise; but they have their signal drawbacks as well as their signal advantages, with a predominance of the former. Rightly understood in its multifarious tendencies and effects, the dispersion of thirty-nine million people over so vast an area, is to be considered in the light of a positive misfortune. What we need is more persons to the square mile in the older States. The wilderness can bide its time. The country is growing too much in spots, to the detriment of associated effort, and to the retardation of a higher civilization.

WHAT POLICY?

Mr. Sumner has issued what may be described as a proclamation against the policy of amnesty, on the ground that some portions of the South, North Carolina notably, stand in as much need of reconstruction now as ever. There is something more than a suspicion that Mr. Sumner is not a wise leader, that his idea of statesmanship is far from practical, and that prejudice and rhetoric frequently take the place of sense with him. Doubtless there are many who will quite agree with Mr. Sumner; but the time has come when there should be something like a policy, a distinct line of action, regarding the South. It is doubtless entirely true that in some parts of the South the sediments of the rebellion yet remain, and that quite generally a feeling of dissatisfaction exists, which latter, it may be, is increasing rather than diminishing. But we think that on close inquiry it will be found that this feeling is the outcome of a defective policy—if policy it can be called—in the management of reconstruction, and the presence of bad men, who, with too much reason, are known as "scalawags," a class of men who, in too many instances, have turned reconstruction into the means of personal advancement, provoking animosities and creating antagonisms, wherein they have been able to enlist in their support the Federal authority and sanction. These antagonisms have gone on growing, and acts been committed, as in the management of the affairs of Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, and other States, not at all calculated to predispose the people of those States to the government or to the condition of contentment which was expected to attend the process of reconstruction. Thus, in too many instances, has been fed fires which should have been, and which it was intended should be quenched; and there is no warrant that Mr. Sumner's policy would not cause their heat to grow more and more intense. Looking dispassionately and closely at the condition of affairs in the South, it is manifest that another treatment would be the wiser course. Thousands and thousands of well-disposed citizens in the South have been driven to co-operate with the Toombses, the Stephenses, and their like, as the only means of protesting effectively against the inflictions imposed by the bad men who unfortunately obtained the control of affairs—politically and in nearly every other respect. It is no wonder that Georgia went so strongly Democratic. With amnesty at the right time, the case might have been different, and though it has been done cannot be prevented, it is perhaps better, for the sake of the future, to do even now what, if done before, would have tended to prevent the reactionary tendency which has been developed so strongly, than continue a policy which was borne so much that is unsatisfactory. Amnesty, if not universal, yet so nearly so as to practically amount to it, therefore has the support of very many who have heretofore not inclined that way, and we presume that Mr. Sumner's views will have less support now from the masses in the North, as well as the South, than they would have commanded before the late elections.

There are doubtless many bad men in the South, but we are impressed with the probability that the larger proportion of the population there desire nothing so much as stability and quiet, with something like honesty and economy in the management of their own affairs—about which they conceive, and probably most fair-minded men will conceive, they should have most to say,—least of all, that their affairs should be in the hands of adventurers intent chiefly on their own advantage, regardless of consequences. It is an unnatural state of things that makes the fact otherwise, and whatever will remove the cause should be the policy of the Government. In view of everything, we are of the opinion that the opposite of Mr. Sumner's proposition is most decidedly the tendency of the enlightened judgment of the country.

From a private letter dated Jacksonville, Florida, we learn that that section of the country experienced almost unparalleled cold weather on Christmas night. Says the writer: "It was the coldest weather that has been experienced in Florida since 1835. The oranges are all frozen, and it is feared that the trees are killed. The thermometer marked 19 degrees above zero, and ice formed half an inch thick. Growing vegetables were cut down and everything green and tender was nipped. Many are the blasted expectations for the continuance of the presence of green peas, beans and early vegetables in general, of which we have been having the accustomed supply. By Monday the thermometer had risen to 45, and is now rising to its usual position in the neighborhood of 70."

In the comments of the Republican press of the country were to be written down briefly, they would be most aptly expressed thus: Wanted, a Policy. These comments are full of meaning, couched in the kindest language towards General Grant, who might read them with advantage to himself and his administration. In thus speaking out the Republican press are simply performing their duty, and at the same time doing an important service.

"THINGS IN SPAIN."

At the time we write no information has been received from Spain upon which to found confident anticipations concerning the course of events. In reference to the political parties into which the people have been divided, there is, we fancy, no good reason to doubt that, a few days ago, a very decided preponderance of influence and opinion was in favor of the settlement of the country under a constitutional monarchy. If it was not absolutely certain, there was a great probability that the newly elected King, enthusiastically supported by the party that nominated him, would soon receive if he had not already received the loyal and perhaps the cordial adhesion of the other royalist parties who would have preferred a different candidate. The only opposition with which he had to contend, or which he had any reason to fear, was that of the uncompromising Republicans, unable or unwilling to conceive of "liberty under a pious King," or to whom social quiet and political order seem no compensation for the pleasing hopes destroyed or deferred by his election. Looking at the young King's position in Spain from this distance, one does not perceive why it should be seriously weakened or imperilled by the assassination of Marshal Prim. True, the personal support and guidance of that eminent man were likely to be of very important use to the youthful monarch, and the deprivation of such aid is doubtless no trifling loss. It may, however, be more than supplied in several ways. At the present day even among Spaniards assassination for political motives is a blunder as well as a crime. Though less universally than among more Northern people yet very generally the act has no doubt excited among them mere horror and disgust. By all the better portion of the nation so regarded, the effect of the murder laid at the door of republicans, can hardly fail to be a diminution of their numbers and loss of influence. Even the disavowal of the crime will hardly prevent such results, as the most brilliant champion of the party, Castelar, has repeatedly in the Cortes, carried away by his rhetorical enthusiasm, used language which might fairly enough be interpreted as almost approving the act. As another effect of the murder, the mode and circumstances of Prim's death may be expected to impart a sort of consecration to his life, and especially to the last measures for which he toiled so zealously. He may seem to have died as a martyr of his policy and to have satisfied the new Spanish monarchy by the shedding of his blood. Its partisans may be inspired with fresh earnestness, which may extend to its lukewarm and uncertain friends. There is still another consideration worthy of mention, the probable effect of General Prim's removal in reconciling to his policy the many who opposed or gave it slight countenance out of personal hostility to its most able and conspicuous champion.

The many who hated, or feared, or distrusted him, and therefore stood aloof from or fought against his cause, may now be ready to accept the Italian King, who, if deprived of the wisdom and support of the great leader, is also relieved of the burden of his enmities and jealousies. In view of such considerations, it seems not impossible that General Prim's death may contribute to the peaceful settlement of Spain under the rule of its foreign sovereign.

The prospect of continued peace is certainly favored by the reports of the apparent unanimity of the Cortes in their action upon his death, and of the ease with which measures were carried out for the prevention of violence. If the Republicans of Madrid had been very resolute in their cause, they would hardly have so readily surrendered their weapons, in obedience to the order of the Governor-General of the city. Admiral Topete, the head of the new government, is known to possess many of the qualities of an able leader, and also to hold the political views of his predecessor. He may be expected to zealously support the young king.

Among American colleges Yale is one of the three or four which may be justly said to possess a national interest. It is so old, its graduates are so widely diffused in places of trust and honor, and for several reasons it has been so conspicuous through so long a period of the history of the country that its distinguished position is universally recognized. Not only by its graduates but by its example, as the model after which other institutions of the kind are formed, its influence is great, and hence its fortunes may with reason be a subject of interest to all who feel any concern regarding the education of the people. As a mere matter of news also it is worth mentioning that Yale College, for so many years the embodiment of conservatism and apparently placed above the mere suggestion of other change than that effected by addition, is at length assailed by innovators. The attack upon the venerable institution is made by a party of its sons who call themselves or are called by others "Young Yale." After due preliminary deliberation, the first assault was delivered, we understand, during last commencement week by a prominent graduate, in the presence of the assembled authorities and dignitaries of the College. Its immediate effect was a flutter rather than a sensation. The need of reform in the constitution of the institution affirmed on that occasion was believed at the time to have not more than two or three supporters. From many communications on the subject which have since appeared in the New York newspapers, it is evident that this notion was erroneous, though there is no reason to believe that the innovators are very numerous. Precisely what change they desire is not exceedingly clear, farther than the ousting of certain Congregational preachers of Connecticut, who, by the terms of the charter, exercise a controlling influence in the selection of the Faculty, and in regulating the course of study. It is alleged by the innovators that by the influence of these clerical directors, professionally disqualified for advancing with the time, the college is variously injured, retained in the groove of a hundred years ago and kept from adopting the improvements and entering fully into the spirit of the present day. Conservatives outside have been rather pleased than grieved to see the clergymen of Connecticut and their qualifications brilliantly defended and their assailants made a little ridiculous by Dr. Bacon, calling himself the "Rev. Mr. Pickering, of Squashville." Nor was it less gratifying to see it proved, in another communication, that "Young Yale" had been carrying on the agitation in ignorance of many of the simplest facts essential to a just judgment of the question.

Indeed a certain puerility has marked a good deal of "Young Yale's" championship, as in making a grievance against the college out of the facts that President Grant has sent his son to Cambridge instead of New Haven, and that Tom Hughes favored the boys at Harvard with a speech, while, perhaps, he was not invited to Yale. After all, however, much that has been urged by the innovators finds sympathy in influential quarters, and the agitation is not likely to cease without having produced some effect upon the college at which it is directed.

D. N. White, Esq., who has been for some time past maturing a bill to reduce the salaries of county officers, and require the payment of the fees into the county treasury, has modified the original draft so as to meet the objection which has been raised to curtailing the fees of those officers elected prior to the fall of 1870. The salaries fixed in the bill are: Sheriff, $6,000; Prothonotary, $5,000, Clerk of the Quarter Sessions, $3,000; Recorder, $2,500; Clerk of the Orphans' Court, $2,000; Coroner, $2,000; Register, $1,500—these figures, of course, are subject to consultation with other members of the delegation, but it is believed they will not be materially altered. Under the modified bill, all fees are to be paid into the County Treasury, monthly, under oath. All officers elected prior to 1870, are to draw out, on regular warrants, the full amount of fees which they pay in. The officers elected in October, 1870, and all others hereafter elected, are to pay in, in fees, an amount equal to the amount of their respective salaries before they can draw out the amount of their salary, and if the fees fall below the amount of the salary, then they and their clerks shall receive only the *pro rata* of the amount paid in; and all above the salaries goes to the credit of the county. A fair allowance is made for clerk hire, and there will be a provision granting the Judges of the Common Pleas, on petition, authority to allow additional clerk hire when required. The reason for requiring the old officers to pay their fees into the treasury, and then draw them out again, is to inaugurate the *system* uniformly at the same time. The bill also contains suitable provisions regulating the county printing.

The Pennsylvania Legislature met at Harrisburg Wednesday. The fall and late special election in the First Senatorial District has transferred the Senate to the Democrats, who promise to use their power in favor of measures for which Reform Republicans have contended—retrenchment and economy and the faithful enforcement of the laws. If they do this the change may not prove a public calamity. Less interest attends the immediate opening of the session than on some previous occasions, owing partly to the changed complexion of the Senate and the apparent general agreement among Republicans as to the organization of the House. There may be some more animation attending the choice of Treasurer by-and-by. The Republican caucus nomination is likely to fall to Mr. Mackey, as it did last year; but whether this will give him the office, as it did not then, is yet to be determined. Governor Geary's message will be read today, and we expect to print it in our next issue. The session itself when once under way, will propably be one of unusual interest, chiefly on the proposition for a constitutional convention and the redistricting of the State. The early passage of a bill providing for the convention is altogether probable, and the Democratic leaders profess themselves entirely willing to agree promptly to a fair apportionment. A convention cannot fail of reforming many an abuse. It will bring the State into sympathy with the spirit of progress which characterizes the present day—a step that will be a great victory over an order of politicians whose power for evil will be broken.

An interesting little book might be written in illustration of the various ways, direct and indirect, in which the United States have exerted and are exerting influence upon Europe. Besides the impression produced by the mere example of successful popular government, an impression abundantly acknowledged in the misrepresentations and calumnies by which the ruling classes have endeavored to counteract it with the multitude, there has been more propagandism than many suppose. In connection with this subject we do not remember to have seen any mention of the establishment of Sunday schools on the European Continent. Though the Sunday School system is claimed as of English origin, it has been most completely developed in this country, and if not derived from abroad, would certainly have been invented among us. The Sunday school movement, as a popular institution, began on the continent of Europe only twelve or thirteen years ago. It received its impulse from this country, and has been throughout moulded and directed by the influence of American example and teaching, and in spite of the powerful prejudices and opposition which the movement everywhere encounters, its progress has been rapid, and it may now be considered as firmly established. In Italy more than seventy such schools are now in operation, and the institution has been introduced into Spain. As a mere educational agency its results are likely to be important among the people, without reference to the religious aspects of the subject.

The scheme which it is reported the New York "stringency" combination will attempt to carry into effect all this week, will afford Secretary Boutwell an opportunity to exert the influence he has the power to exert to break it down and turn the tables on the conspirators. It is fully expected that, should it become necessary, he will not hesitate to use the power which he has in his hands to frustrate their purposes. To-morrow the Government will disburse, as shall be demanded, $28,000,000 in gold interest on the national debt, between four and five millions more in payment of United States sixes, and $2,000,000 in currency—in all, $38,000,000 currency. During the month of January not much if any less than $200,000,000 will be disbursed in interest and dividends, by States, cities and corporations, which will speedily find its way into the various channels of trade. For the moment a stringency may be felt by drawing down balances to accomplish these operations, of which the conspirators will attempt to take advantage, but take all in all there would appears to be no good reason why in the financial as well as in the social world Happy New Year should not be a cheerful greeting.

Mr. Thomas Hughes, a few days ago, gave some account of his American tour to a number of his friends and former students, assembled at the Workingmen's College in London. Two or three of the statements he made are interesting. "Much to the disgust of the German emigrants," he said, "their children will speak nothing but English, the Yankee element being too strong for the Teutonic." When visiting the Cornell University at Ithaca, he found "seven hundred young fellows, rough from the woods and prairies of the west," engaged in study, while earning their living by honest labor. Of these young men the former Oxford Professor, Goldwin Smith, is able to say that they are "the best material for scholars he has ever had in his rooms, lads who come with so earnest a desire to work that he finds it a pleasure to be among them." From another statement in Mr. Hughes's little address we infer that he has discovered the true reason why American young men are less devoted to and less skilled in sports than the same class in England. Time is more precious here than it is there. Among the lessons taught by "Poor Richard" few are better remembered or more regarded than the saying that Time is money.

It is intimated that the words reported as having been spoken by General Schenck, expressing his views and intentions as Minister at the Court of St. James, were put into his mouth by that modern pest, the "interviewer." We are glad of this, and wish we could have a more explicit assurance that the views attributed to the new Minister are in no manner his own; for at the moment of his greatest popularity, were it to be known that he has been correctly reported, he would exchange the good opinion concerning him for the scarcely less universal contempt which is always felt for one who entertains notions of himself quite too exalted, and the judgment that he is not the person to have the management of serious matters. Apart from the manifest impropriety of making an open declaration in advance of his views on the Alabama question, the folly of some of the notions with which General Schenck is made to credit himself is painfully apparent to persons of common sense. We repeat that we are glad to learn that he has been misrepresented, but must confess to a lingering apprehension that the pestilent "interviewer" in some sort reported the spirit of the conversation.

The recent elections have given Democratic leaders no little encouragement, and in one view of the case, perhaps, not without some reason. But one is forcibly reminded of the similarity between the political outlook at the corresponding period of Mr. Lincoln's administration and the present time. The great want then was a Policy. The election results contained such admonitions as to insure success. Such may be the case again; and it would be wiser in the Democratic leaders to moderate their expectations than rush to the conclusion that the country is ready to throw overboard those who have been its salvation, to welcome those who throughout a period of fifteen years have been its worst enemies. All that is needed is for the Republicans to be wise, and General Grant to call to his aid the best order of statesmanship and experience to be found.

The New York money market Friday had a decided tendency towards buoyancy and strength; and as a whole the financial situation is promising rather than the reverse. Considering that it is one of maturing obligations and general settlement, the period is characterized for less stringency than the average of years. The prospect is that the business community generally will pass through the strait without disaster and speedily emerge into smooth water with favoring breezes.

Under the ruinous tariff that the Chicago *Tribune* denounces so vehemently, the manufactures of that city amounted to $89,000,000 in 1870 against $58,000,000 in 1869. The *Tribune* is authority for the statistics, and is regretted to reconcile them with its assertions that the tariff is hurtful to manufacturing interests.

The Rev. Mr. Sabine, of the Church of the Atonement, refused to bury the venerable George Holland, simply because he was an actor. He promptly refused, without stopping to consider the Mr. Holland had always been a most gentle and exemplary man, and that the Holland family had for years been members of the Church of the Atonement. Mr. Sabine forgot that his Master said: "He that is without sin among you let him first cast a stone." Mr. Sabine's standing may be said to be now certainly fixed if it was not before.

The New York *Times* comments on Tweed's $50,000 gift to the poor of that city under the title, "Some stolen property returned."

Mr. Beecher, in his last speech at the clergymen's breakfast, said that infallibility merely means, "when the Pope hits right he hits right, and when he hits wrong he hits wrong."

The New York Fire Department has notified the proprietors of the large hotels to place escapes upon their buildings. What has been done here in the same way, and to prevent a repetition of the Spotswood Hotels horrors?

The total tonnage of Western rivers amounts to 592,997 52-100. Of this Missouri owns the most; Pennsylvania and Louisiana standing the next in rank. Mississippi foots the list with 1,245 75-100. Pennsylvania has 84,193 71-100.

It is a fearful thing we are told of Washington City, which is that for 1871 it promises to be the resort of many persons, after New Year's, who have usually made Paris and other gay cities of Europe their home during the winter season.

It is reported on reliable authority that the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Company intends laying a third rail on its whole line from East St. Louis to Cincinnati, thus enabling narrow gauge freight cars to come through from the East without breaking bulk.

The statistics of Chicago trade for 1870 in comparison with 1869, do not exhibit any particular increase, what there is in some articles being quite balanced by falling off in others. Has our boasting neighbor come to a standstill, that such things can be true?

Charles Francis Adams's name is now freely used in connection with the Presidency by many influential persons in the large cities. His father and grandfather were Presidents, and as a statesman of the first rank he has an acknowledged position. Mr. Adams is understood to have been a Grant man during the last Presidential canvass.

The duty on tea will, after the 1st of January, be fifteen cents a pound less than formarly; on sugar, one-and-a-quarter cents; two cents on coffee and spices, largely on the free list. The question is, will prices come down? What dealer will first give the public the benefit of this reduction in duties? The time is not long to wait for an answer.

Uncompromising Democrats of Mississippi are loudly demanding a stringent Main liquor law. What! Democracy, and in Mississippi at that, going back on whisky, and introducing the interference with man's inalienable right to get drunk, abuse his family, and fill the poor houses and jails? There is a new thing under the sun!

Is it true that D. M. Van Auken, Democratic member of Congress from the Eleventh District of this State is in the habit of franking the mail matter of the Pike county officials? It's a small matter so far as money goes, but if true a noticeable example of the abuses that make the Postoffice Department an annual burden, instead of a source of revenue.

If whisky property is declining in value, community in general will not be sad on account of it, though a few will suffer. But see another suffer. That it is declining would appear from the attempt to sell the Dodsworth distillery, near Cincinnati, at auction, on Tuesday. The building, exclusive of machinery, is valued at $75,000, yet the only bid made was $35,000. This was refused and the sale was postponed.

The New York State canals have not proved, under Democratic management, formidable rivals to the iron routes. Their traffic has not been increased to the profitable extent anticipated, and consequently the revenue has fallen very far short of the expenditures. It is stated from Albany that the Auditor's report will assert, with more than usual Democratic candor, that the management has proved "an utter failure."

Every month or two the newspapers announce the invention of a station indicator or enunciator, for the useful purpose of showing to the passengers on each railway car the name of the next station. Every one will acknowledge the value of such an invention, but who ever sees or hears of one in practical use? What becomes of them all and why don't the railroads adopt them?

Virginia, one of the richest States in mineral wealth, has always been tied down to agricultural apron strings; but now she, having passed out of her "teens" of slavery, begins to rub up her eyes, and see that she had better go to work manufacturing and mining. She cannot afford to get on her feet in new line, so asks Government to put no tax on new manufacturing establishments for some time to come, and this give them protection.

In the *Freiheits-Freund* of the 28th instant, Dr. Meinertzhagen, editor of the paper for the last six months, announces his "withdrawal in answer to an article from Detroit." In connection with the *Freund* has been very creditable to himself, and we can easily believe, advantageous to the paper. The publishers announce that the post vacated by the withdrawing editor, will in future be filled by Mr. Uhl, who has edited other German-American journals.

A bill has been introduced into the United States Senate, which, if passed, will give marine insurance companies much more power than at present. It requires that all masters and mates of sea-going vessels shall be navigators; that they are to be attested by an official certificate from a board of examiners, the result of an examination. A penalty of $500 is to be imposed upon any insurance company writing a policy upon a vessel, or any part of its cargo, sailed by officers not properly certified to.

William Lloyd Garrison, Mr. Longfellow and Gerrit Smith are among those who have written to Senator Sumner approving his course on San Domingo. Gerrit Smith, who has the warmest devotion to the best interests of the blacks is beyond question, takes the ground that the American tropics are the natural home of the negro and mixed races, and that our duty is to protect and not occupy those regions. Such a policy would not also whose dislike to the blacks is beyond question.

Just at the moment of Philadelphia's success in raising means for the steamships which are to connect her with Liverpool, a difficulty no bigger than a man's hand, perhaps—nevertheless a difficulty that may prove serious—is experienced in the inability of the Secretary of the Treasury in the Pennsylvania Congress is to be asked to do something. Perhaps the Central Railroad Company—Philadelphia's strong hold till she sold the stock—will assist. But what will Philadelphia herself do?

Although there was considerable discussion in Chicago about what was deemed the unreasonable price of the Nilsson tickets, the owners of good seats in secured handsome profits. Even though the individuals at a profit of fifty per cent. More than one *paterfamilias* paid $150 for a four-seat balcony box, and numbers of single seats on the front row of the dress circle sold for $25 each. If this were not so extravagant as to astound us on this occasion, we have good reason to believe that the innovators are very numerous. Precisely what change they desire is not exceedingly clear, farther than the ousting of certain Congregational preachers of Connecticut, who, by the terms of the charter, exercise a controlling influence in the selection of the Faculty, and in regulating the course of study. It is alleged by the innovators that by the influence of these clerical directors, professionally disqualified for advancing with the time, the college is variously injured, retained in the groove of a hundred years ago and kept from adopting the improvements and entering fully into the spirit of the present day. Conservatives outside have been rather pleased than grieved to see the clergymen of Connecticut and their qualifications brilliantly defended and their assailants made a little ridiculous by Dr. Bacon, calling himself the "Rev. Mr. Pickering, of Squashville." Nor was it less gratifying to see it proved, in another communication, that "Young Yale" had been carrying on the agitation in ignorance of many of the simplest facts essential to a just judgment of the question.

Indeed a certain puerility has marked a good deal of "Young Yale's" championship, as in making a grievance against the college out of the facts that President Grant has sent his son to Cambridge instead of New Haven, and that Tom Hughes favored the boys at Harvard with a speech, while, perhaps, he was not invited to Yale. After all, however, much that has been urged by the innovators finds sympathy in influential quarters, and the agitation is not likely to cease without having produced some effect upon the college at which it is directed.

D. N. White, Esq., who has been for some time past maturing a bill to reduce the salaries of county officers, and require the payment of the fees into the county treasury, has modified the original draft so as to meet the objection which has been raised to curtailing the fees of those officers elected prior to the fall of 1870. The salaries fixed in the bill are: Sheriff, $6,000; Prothonotary, $5,000, Clerk of the Quarter Sessions, $3,000; Recorder, $2,500; Clerk of the Orphans' Court, $2,000; Coroner, $2,000; Register, $1,500—these figures, of course, are subject to consultation with other members of the delegation, but it is believed they will not be materially altered. Under the modified bill, all fees are to be paid into the County Treasury, monthly, under oath. All officers elected prior to 1870, are to draw out, on regular warrants, the full amount of fees which they pay in. The officers elected in October, 1870, and all others hereafter elected, are to pay in, in fees, an amount equal to the amount of their respective salaries before they can draw out the amount of their salary, and if the fees fall below the amount of the salary, then they and their clerks shall receive only the *pro rata* of the amount paid in; and all above the salaries goes to the credit of the county. A fair allowance is made for clerk hire, and there will be a provision granting the Judges of the Common Pleas, on petition, authority to allow additional clerk hire when required. The reason for requiring the old officers to pay their fees into the treasury, and then draw them out again, is to inaugurate the *system* uniformly at the same time. The bill also contains suitable provisions regulating the county printing.

Those who fear the influence of railway combinations in their power to oppress the people through manipulation of State Legislatures, have been talking of appealing for relief to Congress, to ask it to exercise its exclusive constitutional power "to regulate commerce among the several States," and "to establish postoffices and post roads." But we fear that the railroads have taken time by the forelock in the matter. The decision gained by the Baltimore and Ohio Road over the State of Maryland recently turned in the road's favor upon this principle, and now the Chicago and North Western Company invoke its aid in their behalf in a case against them in the Iowa Supreme Court. H. E. J. Boardman brought suit to recover $400 statute penalties, for freight charges made by the company in violation of the Iowa law providing that, in the month of September of each year, every railroad shall fix its rates of freights and fare, which shall be posted up, and so remain during the year. For receiving higher rates of freight and fare than thus established certain penalties are established. Not only is the general constitutional right of Congress to regulate inter-State commerce set up in defense, but specific reference is made to an act of Congress, of June 15, 1866, whereby every railroad in the United States whose road is operated with steam, is authorized to convey passengers and freight on their way from any State to another, and to receive compensation therefor. In this case the direct issue is presented whether the State can interfere to regulate the price of freight going from this State to another, or coming from another State to this, or passing from another State through Iowa to a third State. The railroad companies are thus placing their interests within the control of the National Legislature, are taking a step they may repent.

The Philadelphia *North American* finds in the extensive privileges conferred upon the Credit Mobilier by the charter from the Pennsylvania Legislature, "a fair specimen of the unlimited privileges granted away by successive Legislatures of this Commonwealth, and it is no exaggeration to say that when the constitution shall be so amended as to prohibit all further special legislation, the past acts are to so vast and various that charters may be dug up at Harrisburg and reinvigorated to do anything at all. There is scarcely a line of railway that will not be found covered by some charter: and, indeed, there are some railway charters that authorize lines anywhere." The *American* suggests that if anybody is to make money out of these charters, Pennsylvanians themselves should be shrewd enough to hunt them up, instead of leaving them for a "desperate set of New York schemers to light upon and give the go," and it remarks that as it now is the laws of the Commonwealth "will reveal many things in this line that are now totally unknown, and save many persons useless boring of the Legislature for special acts for corporation purposes." Is it unreasonable to hope that the Legislature may at last let people first in this matter, by appointing a committee to ascertain and report what charters and special privileges are unused and dormant, and by repealing them?

The Boston *Transcript* thinks that there is probably less legislative corruption in New England than in other sections of the Union. The first reason assigned is the great number of legislators, a usage sustained by two reasons, one that there is thought to be safety in a multitude of counsellors, and the other that it has been found that the Legislature was a good place to educate men for public service. Gentlemen who have been to the general court, make better men for selectmen, overseers of the poor, assessors, and members of school committees, than persons who have never held official positions outside their own neighborhoods.

Comparison is made with the Legislatures of New York and Pennsylvania, which are generally believed to be the most corrupt, and which are the smallest in proportion to the population. New York has 32 Senators and 128 Representatives; Pennsylvania 33 Senators and 100 Representatives; Massachusetts 40 Senators and 240 Representatives; Maine 31 Senators and 151 Representatives; Ohio 37 Senators and 105 Representatives; Missouri 34 Senators and 109 Representatives; California 40 Senators and 80 Representatives; Vermont 30 Senators and 245 Representatives. With about one-twelfth the population of New York, Vermont has nearly double the number of members of her Legislature. New Hampshire has a larger House and smaller Senate than any of the other States; the former consists of 333 members, and the latter of only 12.

A Boston paper criticises social life in America, and finds that the first "defect of our society is a want of catholicity, dividing us now into many clans." He says that "there are circles here in Boston that keep up the feelings of the old monarchical and colonial times. There are a few exclusive families that have for generations intervisited. So persons in similar business pursuits, or moving in the same religious society, interchange social civilities." All quite true, doubtless, and at times very inconvenient, but what remedy is proposed? Shall one seek his associates by the application of power directly public levees, as the President is expected to do? Social circles or "rings" there will be, and must be, and the thing is not to waste strength in attempts to break them up, but to work in them toward a cultivation of the liberality that recognizes merit wherever without one's own sphere, and that acts cordially toward whomever one meets. In the day when all are, in fact, gentlemen and gentlewomen, circumstances will still divide them into "sets;" but even the Boston critic will not find fault with them.

The New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, claiming that the true policy for American citizens and the commerce of more than $500,000,000 is improved communication with the outer world through the Mississippi river, have memorialized Congress for the construction of a ship canal between the Mississippi river at some point near Fort St. Philip, on the left bank, to a deep water point at or off Breton Island in the Gulf of Mexico. It is suggested that the dredged channel is but a temporary measure, that must be constantly renewed, and is certainly subject to destruction from accidental causes, which the cost of a canal, which can never be taken